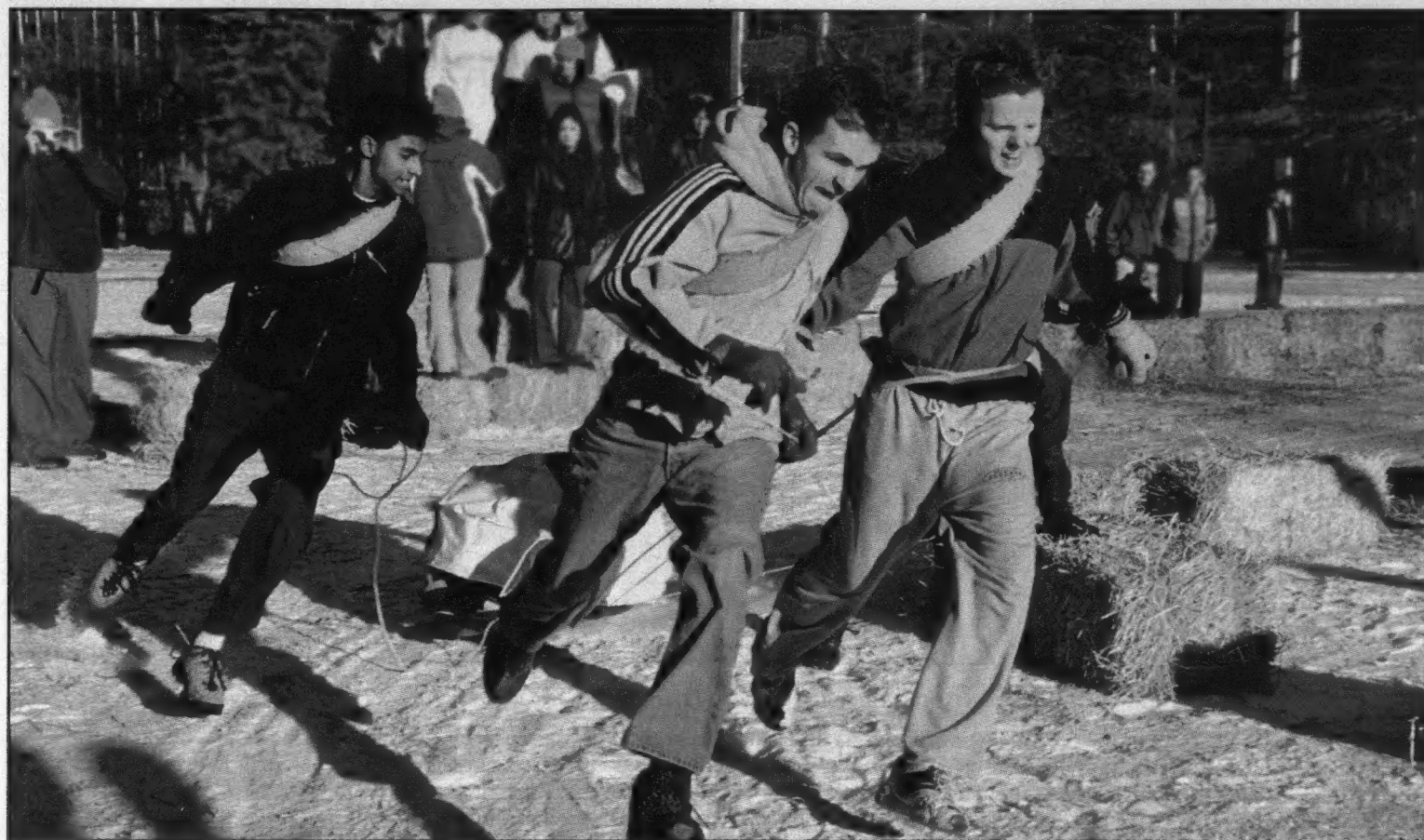


THE GATEWAY

Volume XC Number 26

Thursday, 11 January, 2000

<http://gateway.su.ualberta.ca/>

Teams of energetic students competed for the big prize on Wednesday in Quad as part of Anti-Freeze, which runs all week long. See page 3 for the rundown. Jennifer Salzwedel / THE GATEWAY

Tuition increase falls to 3.7%

Jon Dunbar
NEWS EDITOR

The University has announced that they will be seeking a 3.7 per cent tuition increase for next year.

This number was brought down from 5.7 per cent when the previous proposal was shot down by the Academic Planning Committee, which is composed primarily of faculty.

At the Students' Council meeting on Tuesday, President Leslie Church called the defeat of the 5.7 per cent increase a "major victory."

She thanked students for their support in fighting the tuition increase, and acknowledged the "big help from the provincial government."

The provincial government recently announced that it would be donating \$25 million to post-secondary education, approximately \$5.5 million of which will go to the University of Alberta.

"Even though it's an election year, it's great to see the government putting money into post-secondary education," said Church.

However, when the APC rejected the 5.7 per cent proposal in December, committee members were not yet aware that the government would be granting the extra money.

Shannon McEwan, President of the Graduate Students' Association, told Council that she didn't think the decreased proposal was enough.

"We're happy that we've gone down from 5.7 to 3.7, but we're hoping to go down all the way," she said. The GSA was lobbying for a zero to two per cent increase.

The Students' Union also disagrees with the figure the University is using for the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which the new increase percentage is meant to equal. According to Church, the CPI number should be closer to 2.2 per cent.

According to the Scholarship Consultants of North America rankings, the University of Alberta has the twenty-second highest total cost in Canada, which takes into account tuition, room and board, and books and supplies at 42 universities.

The Board of Governors will make a final decision on Friday morning at 8:30am in the Telus Centre.

The Students' Union will be serving hot chocolate and doughnuts in front of the building to encourage students to attend.

Study puts Alberta on bottom of PSE rankings

Christie Tucker
NEWS EDITOR

Alberta and Ontario universities are falling flat, according to a recent study of Canada's post-secondary-education climate.

All ten provinces were compared in terms of equity, accessibility, quality and public accountability by a new study from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA).

The report, released this week by the independent research group, evaluates the provinces based on 19 indicators, from the percentage of women among the teaching faculty to tuition levels.

The three highest-ranking provinces overall were British Columbia, Quebec and Manitoba, while the lowest three were Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario.

Manitoba's improvement from

sixth in last year's ranking to third this year is partially a result of the government's recent implementation of a tuition freeze, said one of the report's authors, Erika Shaker.

The most worrying trend Shaker noticed from the project is that post-secondary education accessibility is dependant on location and income bracket, she said.

"There are massive inequities entrenched across the country. The face of campus is changing as accountability is being limited," said Shaker.

"We hope that this report might be a wake-up call for the governments."

But Alberta Ministry of Learning representative Randy Kilburn said that Alberta is committed to post-secondary education in the province.

"We have added more to student assistance [for post-secondary

education] than to any other area in the last budget," said Kilburn.

Alberta was identified in the report as the province with the most extreme tuition hikes between 1990 and 2000, with a 208.8 per cent rise in that time. Shaker said that tuition was of particular concern to the study.

"We have to look at the degree to which students are becoming impoverished for what is basically now a job requirement," she said.

This is the second year the CCPA has released an evaluation of the provinces' educational commitment.

Shaker said that the organization was concerned that conventional university rankings overlook government responsibility when they evaluate individual schools.

"We wanted to provide a forum for students and faculty to broaden their discussion of the state of higher education," said Shaker.



Today

8 An overview of the CIAU's Western Conference, the best damn men's hockey in the country.

17 Bang or whimper? The Gateway finds out how you rang in the "real" millennium.

22 Do you love reading, wiping yourself with, or getting irate about our comics? Then, cheer up! The back pages of this paper are a recipe for happiness.

Quote for the day:

An atomic clock might run for a very long time, but so will a rat full of speed.

— Hunter S Thompson

This day in the Gateway's history:

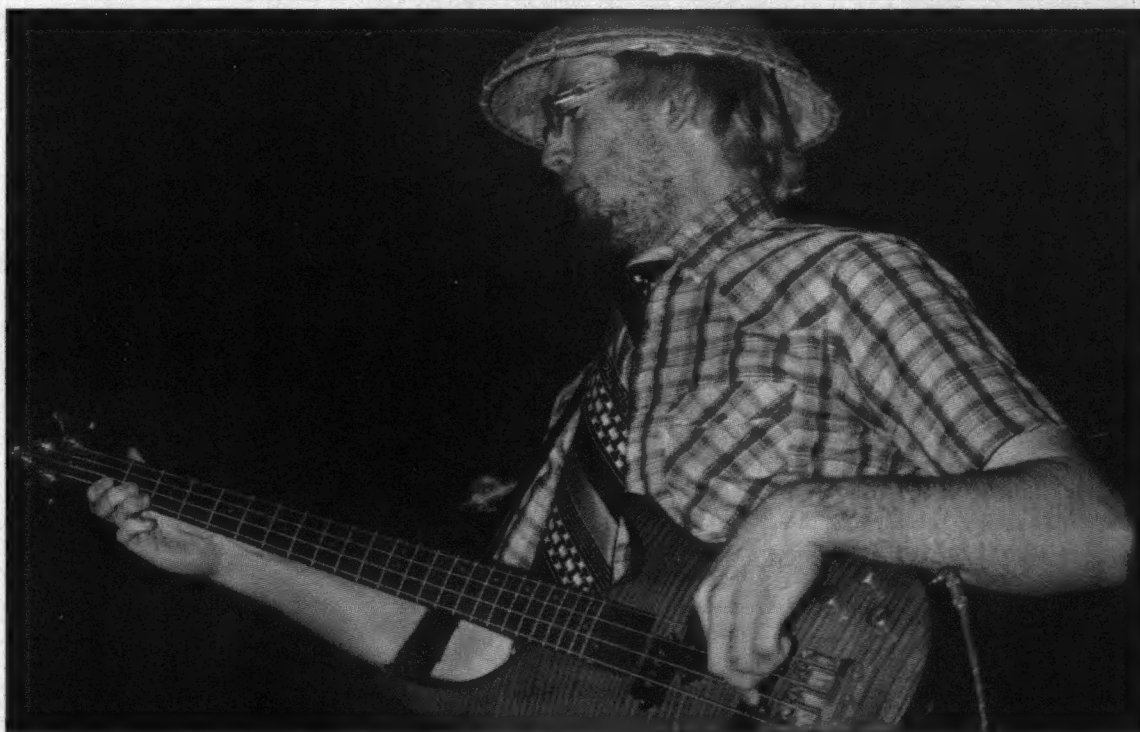
Third-year Education student Fero Zeman was reinstated to the University after being expelled for not sending a letter of apology to the proper authorities after disrupting a town meeting in December. He was asked to apologize to the meeting's guest speaker, the President of the Kiwanis Club.

1947

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Please recycle this newspaper



This fashion plate played at New City Likwid Lounge for the Green Pepper Hockey League season-opener party. Mark Woytiuk / THE GATEWAY

THE GATEWAY

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Canada's young getting poorer despite national decline

David Leibl
CENTRAL CUP BUREAU CHIEF

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Canada's poverty rate dropped in 1998 to its lowest point in nearly a decade, but the number of young people living below the poverty line is soaring, says the National Council on Welfare.

The country's latest poverty figures show that 16.4 per cent of all Canadians were living in poverty in 1998. That's a decrease of 1.3 per cent from the previous year.

John Murphy, the council's chairperson, said he was pleased to be able to announce such good news, although he conceded the new figures were not cause for celebration.

"We need to see sharper and quicker improvements in the lives of the least advantaged people when good times come to rest of the country," he said.

Most poor people are still living far below the poverty line, the council reports. In 1998, the number of single people living on less than half the poverty line climbed to 463 000—up from 287 000 in 1989. The number of poor families living on less than half the poverty line jumped from 143 000 to 233 000 in the same period.

For young people, the poverty rate is especially bleak. Nearly 61 per cent of single people under 25 were living in poverty in 1998, an increase of 13 per cent over the 1989 figures. The rate among single-parent mothers in the same age category has skyrocketed to 85.4 per cent.

Jen Anthony, the deputy national chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students, said the startling figures for young people are a reflection of the social well being of the country's college and university students. She claims students who require loans to afford their education have been left in a tough spot.

"[This report] speaks to the crisis of student debt in this country," Anthony said. "Students who are relying on student loans as the pri-



Patrick Finlay / THE GATEWAY

Rising poverty rates in young people are alarming student leaders.

mary means of financing their education are just not able to get by on the amount of money they have. It's incredibly difficult to pay off these debts and provide for their families or themselves."

Anthony said the poverty rate among young mothers is particularly alarming and "not acceptable." A national child care program, she said, is needed to ensure students with children are able to lead healthy lives above the poverty line.

Better government funding for higher education would also alleviate young parents, financial burden because more money could curtail rising tuition fees and make education more affordable, she noted.

The National Association of Poverty Organizations agreed the government should take a more active role in helping lift Canada's poor out of poverty.

The association's Executive Director, Bruce Tate, claims the government has largely ignored the plight of the nation's poor. The reduction in the overall poverty rate, he says, stems from a strong

economy, not because of government initiatives to combat the problem.

Unless the government steps in, Tate worries a projected economic downturn will mean more Canadians will be out on the street.

"The bottom line is that governments need to treat poverty and homelessness as a crisis in Canada. Until they do, the poor are going to continue to be at the whim of international economic forces, as opposed to governmental strategies."

Tate said his association will be keeping an eye on the federal government to see if it will introduce new approaches to fighting poverty. Prime Minister Jean Chretien last month hinted his government might consider implementing a guaranteed annual income for all Canadians, although he has since backed away from the proposal.

The poverty line varies from city to city in Canada, depending on the cost of living. The national average for a single-person family is \$17 060.

University will expand campus south in the not-so-distant future

Christie Tucker
NEWS EDITOR

The U of A's quick population growth over the years has created the need for an expansion of the campus southward, but executives say that the plans are still too new to say what form that expansion will take.

"Right now there are no immediate, definite plans," said Associate Vice-President (Academic) Anne Marie Decore.

However, a committee has been set up of student, faculty, and administrative representatives to make plans for the expansion. "For the last eight months, we've been assessing whether we will need to use the land in the south for facilities other than agriculture, and the answer was, 'Yes we will,'" said Decore.

Evaluation of the project will include factors like expected enrolment and research funding over the next few years. The committee is still undecided whether the new addition will take the form of classrooms, research facilities, or another type of facility.

Students' Union President Leslie Church said that there has been a lot of talk about expansion over the past year, and that the committee is preparing a report to submit to the Board of Governors in March. Church said that Health Sciences researchers lack space, despite the millions of research dollars they receive for projects.

"The south campus is seen as a rich new area of space," said Church.

Negotiations are also being finalized over the expansion of the LRT system from Health Sciences to the site of the new track-and-field facility being built near the Neil Crawford Centre.

Marilyn Stecyk, the Principal of Kaleidoscope, the consulting firm working on the LRT expansion, said that a station at the Neil Crawford site will not be seen for another four to five years.

COUNCIL FORUM

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall. Council meetings are open to all students.

Tuesday's Students' Council meeting was held on the fourth floor of SUB due to ongoing renovations in the Council Chambers. Due to the lack of their PA system, councillors were forced to stand and raise their voices.

Other business

• President Leslie Church reported that the Students' Union would serve hot chocolate and "no dough" donuts to students outside the Telus Centre on Friday morning, when the Board of Governors would be making their decision about next year's tuition rate. Presumably, the donuts are still made with dough.

• VP (External) Naomi Agard reported that she is planning to ask Edmonton Transit Service to submit a detailed proposal for the universal bus passes. She pointed out that the mandatory bus fee will

not go to referendum this year. Feedback from the proposal will be used to determine whether it will make it to referendum next year.

• VP (Student Life) Jen Wanke announced that she is trying to set up a recycling program on campus, which would offer recycling services for more types of materials, including batteries. The proposed program would start in SUB.

• Wanke is also addressing why women's washrooms on campus do not have sanitary napkins.

• Wanke announced that she had asked why the parking meters on Saskatchewan Drive were in operation for limited hours, while most meters on campus were 24-hour. She explained that the City owns the meters on Saskatchewan Drive. She is trying to reduce the amount of hours the meters operate.

• VP (Academic) Chris Samuel

reported that the University's debarment policies were revised at a General Faculties Council meeting in November. Professors no longer have the power to debar a student from writing a final exam.

• Samuel had a meeting with the Registrar Executive Group, where they discussed three items: extending the add/drop deadline to ten days after classes begin; prohibiting midterms from being booked outside of regularly scheduled classes; and granting students a deferral if they have more than three exams in 48 hours. However, he warned that "the Registrar is lukewarm to some of these ideas."

• Samuel reported that the University is working on plans to add a fourth tower to the Lister complex. Although these plans have not been finalized, the University hopes to have the new student residence

completed by 2003.

• VP (Ops & Finance) Gregory Harlow was unsuccessful in convincing Council to make the Speaker of Council an elected representative instead of a hired "bureaucrat." He explained that such a change would make the SU more of a conventional, respectable democracy.

• After lengthy debate, Council approved a proposal to allow a more representative allotment of seats for large faculties. Science will now have nine seats and Arts will have eight, each up from five.

• General Manager Bill Smith thanked the executive for not commenting that he was wearing "odd shoes" the previous day. Speaker Stella Varvis clarified: "You were wearing a different shoe on each foot?" Smith responded, "Well, most people do. He had worn one brown and one black shoe."

Compiled by Jon Dunbar



Carl Schreuders / THE GATEWAY

Makeshift sled and sledder in tow, one Anti-Freeze team dashes across Quad.

Students match wits and energy in Anti-Freeze events

Jennifer Salzwedel
NEWS STAFF

Teams of students are marching across campus, waving flags, shouting slogans, wearing matching toques. Is it some new form of student protest? Has the glee club gone crazy?

It's Anti-Freeze, a competition to kick-start the new semester. University students are showing up in droves as their teams take part in events.

"It's just a huge winter carnival for people," said participant Rohit Sharma.

Sharma's team, the Originals, is made up of volunteers from the Students' Union.

Events to warm up the new year included a tug of war and thumb wars on Monday, and a toboggan race in quad on Wednesday.

Teams are competing for the grand prize, which is an expenses-paid team snowboarding trip.

The toboggan race began at noon

in Quad when an unidentified farmer backed in a truckload of hay-bales. The bales were stacked into a rectangle to form the boundaries of a race track. Teams competed by pulling one member along in a sled, like human sled dogs.

The toboggan apparatus varied amongst the teams. Besides the standard French Canadian wooden sled, there was a miniature igloo sled, one team spun around the track pulling a large mixing bowl. Brave teams faced off to pull their comrades across the icy tundra of Quad, across patches of ice and barren pavement.

There are many events going on all this week in Quad, the Power Plant and the SUB stage.

VP (Student Life) Jen Wanke, who is in charge of the festival, said that there are 130 more participants this year than participated in the event's launch last year.

All forty spots in the contest were filled within two hours of the beginning of registration.

All-night concert to give PEAS a chance

Jon Dunbar
NEWS EDITOR

While the Students' Union is hosting an Anti-Freeze movie event on Thursday in SUB's Dinwoodie Lounge, other students will be celebrating education with an all-night concert downstairs.

A group called PEAS (Preservation of Education Accessibility for Society) has organised the musical event and planned accompanying speeches, in order to raise student and public awareness of tuition increases. The event is free for everyone.

The concert, named Celebration Education, has received political backing from provincial leaders of both the New Democrats and the Liberals.

"Over the last ten years, Alberta has fostered the highest inflation in Canadian tuition, and this is simply out of line for a province that boasts a grotesque \$5.6 billion surplus," said Raj Pannu, leader of

the Alberta New Democrats. "We believe that university education should be affordable and accessible for society as a whole and are in support of not only a decrease in the tuition hike, but an actual 30 per cent rollback in tuition."

Pannu will be speaking at the student concert, along with Liberal leader Nancy MacBeth and NDP MLA Brian Mason, as well as Len Douzich from the Council of Canadians.

Live music will be provided by local musicians, including U of A student Joel Kroeker, who was recently nominated for a Prairie Music Award, and Zita-Catherine Dube, a Music major and opera performer. Also on the line-up are local funk-rock band A-JO and local funk-lounge-blues band Cool Blue Method.

The event is timed in order to precede the Board of Governors meeting at 8:30am at the Telus Centre on Friday morning at 8:00am, where the final decision about tuition will be made.

York strike ends after 11 weeks

Reka Szekely
Dan Verbin
THE EXCALIBUR

TORONTO (CUP) — Striking graduate students and teaching assistants reached a tentative agreement with York University's administration early Tuesday morning after a bitter eleven-week struggle.

"It's more or less exactly what we were asking for right from the beginning," said Mark Hiller, chief steward for the teaching assistants, one of the three units of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3903.

The deal was struck after a forced ratification vote last Friday which only saw one of three bargaining units, the contract faculty, agree to the University's proposal.

The vote was called by the Ontario Ministry of Labour in December and was strongly opposed by the union executive. When both the teaching assistants and graduate assistants rejected the offer the two sides went back to the table for a marathon bargaining session. They reached an agreement at 7:00am on Tuesday.

The two-year agreement includes the much coveted tuition protection for both teaching and graduate assistants. It also establishes a first contract for graduate assistants, including a base pay of \$5880 for the first year, plus an \$882 signing bonus and \$7300 in the second year. The University initially offered a base of \$4500 in October. All units will receive a two per cent pay raise.

The major issue of contention during the strike was the inclusion of tuition protection for teaching assistants and graduate students, meaning any tuition increases will be met with a dollar-for-dollar rebate. This prevents the university from negating salary raises with tuition hikes.

Hiller says York is the only university in Canada to offer such protection. He said he expects teaching assistants across the country to make similar demands when their contracts come up.

Though no one from the University was available for comment, President Lorna Marsden called the agreement "great news" in a prepared statement.

"There are no winners this morning except undergraduates. This is their day and it's taken far too long."

"We are a university with a spirit of tolerance, respect and the patient pursuit of knowledge, and we must immediately return to normal academic life," says Marsden.

Nikhi Puru, a second-year information technology major, was relieved to hear the strike is over. "I actually feel much better. I wanted it to be done," said Puru. Most York students agree, but many worry about the lost time.

"I'm relieved, but I'm still angry about the whole thing," said Emily Falls, a first-year music major. "I'm feeling pretty stressed out now because of all the stuff we're going to have to catch up on now."

The University's senate executive announced yesterday that the term will resume on Friday and will continue until 12 February.

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These are three-credit paced classroom courses that run at Athabasca University's Edmonton Learning Centre starting the week of January 22. A sufficient number of registrations will result in all classes having an on-site instructor. If there are insufficient registrations, classes will be offered through videoconference or teleconference.

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Tuesdays

Some courses have pre-requisites. All courses are subject to approval/availability and sufficient student numbers. For an up-to-date list, please go to http://www.athabascau.ca/lso/LSO_web.html. Please refer to the Athabasca University Calendar for additional fees, pre-requisites, and other policies and regulations that may apply to you. (To request a copy, call 421-8700 and press "1," or go to www.athabascau.ca.)

To register or for more information, contact:

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OPINION

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Thursday, 11 January, 2000

THE GATEWAY

EDITORIAL

Military mustn't judge punishment by gender

There's a saying that military intelligence is an oxymoron, and Canadian military brass seem to be acting out that cliché.

Corporal Jerry Montgomery was court-martialed after he broke the military's ban on sex with a female master corporal on a Canadian base in Bosnia. He was charged with "conduct prejudicial to the good order of service discipline." The disturbing part is that his companion escaped all charges.

The issue here is not whether or not having sex is allowed in the military—that is something best left to policy makers. The question is why, if both soldiers broke the ban, only one is being punished.

It has not been denied that Corporal Montgomery had sex with his companion—a soldier has testified to that after having to don his Walkman to drown out the ... um ... noises coming from the next bunk—he was two meters away and had to hear it three times in four nights.

The issue is how the military seems to view sexual activity; that is, not as a mutual act, but as a man having sex. Not a couple, but a man. The female involved, while being present, is not seen by the military as being engaged in the sexual activity. Hence, the case is against Montgomery, and not the woman with whom he had shared this particular tour of duty.

The argument is not whether his actions were correct. Indeed, engaging in such activity in a public

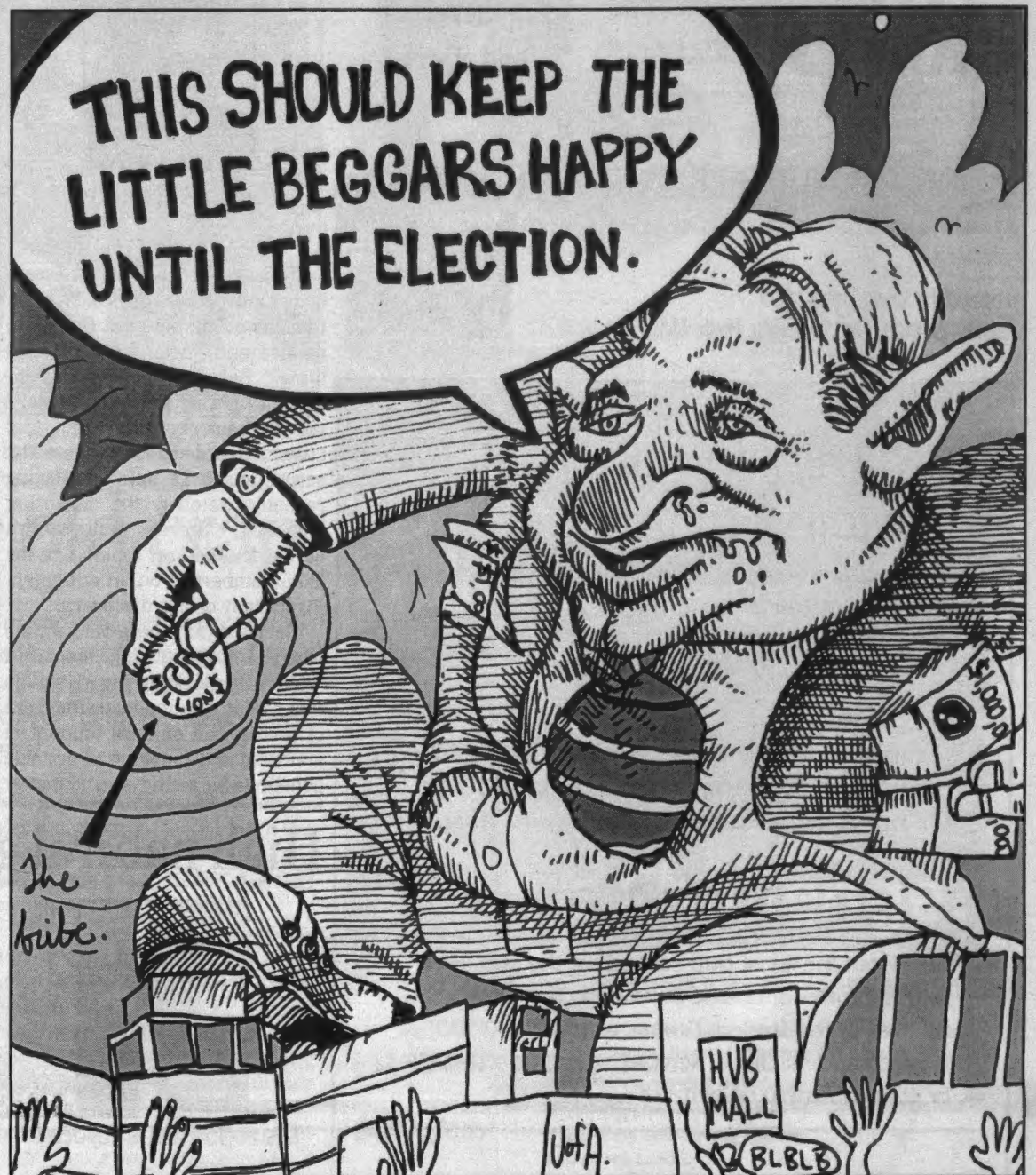
bunkhouse with a co-worker two meters away puts a frown on anyone's face (most of all the co-worker's). The fact that Montgomery was married at the time, and not to the master corporal, is morally repugnant to say the least. But the fact remains that they both broke the ban, they both willingly engaged in the breaking of that ban and thus should both face the consequences thereof.

The fact that the female companion outranked the corporal being tried should, if anything, single her out for disciplinary action.

Equality carries with it a responsibility, and part of that responsibility involves taking the good with the bad. The Director of the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies sees the central issue as being that "this whole area [of men and women in combat units] is new." And that only makes the decisions made today all the more important, deciding whether the military views consensual sexual activity as a man having sex with a woman, or as a couple enjoying the experience together.

Unfortunately for the Canadian military, they cannot drown out this issue as easily as Montgomery's neighbor did for the three nights in Bosnia. These decisions may well determine military policy, not to mention Montgomery's future career.

Barrie Tanner
SPORTS EDITOR



LETTERS

Show up for BoG

I hope many students show up to protest tuition increases for the Board of Governors meeting at the Telus centre on 12 January. The Klein government has a huge surplus in the billions and yet, somehow they think that they can justify a tuition increase. It's even worse than five or six years ago when our economy and budget had to be streamlined to tackle our deficit. No there's no excuse of this anymore.

Unfortunately, it seems as if students don't seem to care. Turnout for such protests is usually pitiful. Alberta has never had the reputation of having strong political activism—after all, we've had the same party in power for years. But still, you would think that students would, at least in principle, be against post-secondary education for the rich.

CHRIS OAKLEY
EDUCATION I

Gateway sucks bum

I've been a student at the U of A now six years and I'm a loyal reader of the *Gateway*. I have to tell you, though, that without *Panelled Heat* and the originally free TLFs, there is little to read the *Gateway*.

The *Gateway* would be lucky if I spend more than five minutes skimming through it. I know that many of my peers feel the same way.

There were many of us, thousands even, that opened the paper just for *Panelled Heat* and the extensive TLF section. Your readership would greatly increase if the *Gateway* brought back these items. I propose that *Panelled Heat* be brought back and free TLFs be put in the comic section instead of the unfunny and unread strips.

BRIAN WASHUTA
BUSINESS IV

Unadulterated praise for the Gateway

Noticing that the only letters you get are usually negative, I thought I would send along some words of praise.

As a recent recipient of hate mail myself (*See Magazine*—from a man who not only felt compelled to disagree with a movie review I wrote, but also for a film *he did not see*) I understand that while some letters add complexity and clarification to the issues, too often the debate disintegrates into personal attacks made by the bitter and idle.

Those letters are written by cra-

zies, and you print them because it's all you've got; the sane and happy seldom need to air their views. It seems like the moment you provide a public forum for discussion, people kind of lose their judgment and say whatever they think will impress people the most or get the most attention.

So, then: thanks for pointing out important issues like the alleged brain drain and the *insane* Fraser Institute's recommendation to abolish tenure. Too often dialogue around pedagogy and academic freedom is ignored or unnoticed in these days when students are treated more like "clients" than thinkers, where "learning" replaces education in the increasingly corporatized discourse of the government and university administration. Believe me, it's not just semantics—it signifies an alarming shift in ideology.

Thanks for the extensive cultural reportage, the prescient political cartoons, and the edgy and well-drawn comics. That's on top of the usual campus news and information.

Good work, kids! Stay *solid gold*.

MARI SASANO
MA ENGLISH 1997

Yes, tuition deposit does need revision

In response to Mr Sommerfield's letter ("Abolish unfair tuition deposit payments," 9 January)

regarding the confirmation deposit system, I could not agree more.

Traditionally, the University has struggled with students who register and then decide not to attend the University. This practice detains valuable, and limited, class spaces and is unfair to those students who need to enter a particular class.

As a result, the University wanted to create a mechanism (that is, the confirmation deposit) that would encourage students to seriously consider their registration.

Unfortunately, the current mechanism seems to work against students. All is not lost, though.

Currently, the Registrar's office is working on revising the confirmation deposit system and I, through my discussions with the Registrar, will ensure that the new system is more student friendly.

Also, just to clarify, the \$175 that we pay now is not an additional fee. Instead, this money is put towards your tuition.

If anyone has a concern with the confirmation deposit system, please feel free to contact me.

CHRIS SAMUEL
VP ACADEMIC
STUDENTS' UNION

Busker defends his right to make a living

I am graduate of the University of Alberta (1969). It was my great pleasure to be playing the penny whistle in the January sunshine for

two days this week until a Campus cop came by and told me, "no busking is allowed on campus."

But that's how I make my living—as a street musician. It is a worthy and honorable living as a contribute very little to the destruction of the planet. I was also working within fifty yards of various junk food establishments that have somehow bought themselves permission to operate on campus (what is a license, but an official bribe?).

I believe universities should be places where music can be heard in public spaces. Culture is not just something you can just buy by the yard.

Universities with their stakes on "high achievement" are always in danger of becoming cultural wastelands. They should have a policy of encouraging incidental music rather than repressing it.

TIM LANDER

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 0-10 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@su.ualberta.ca.

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of letters it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words in length and include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

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Personal growth through *Police Academy*



Dave Alexander

The burning question on everybody's minds these days is "What is the connection between Canadian politics and *The Police Academy* films?" Before I shed some well-needed light on this subject, let's reflect back on the film that spawned six sequels, an animated series, and a TV spin-off. Having recently watched the film that launched Steve Guttenberg's career for the first time since the '80s, I embarked on an enlightening journey of self-discovery.

I learned that there was a time when simply uttering the word "shit" after a sight gag catapults that gag into the upper stratosphere of hilarity, an endless amount of smirking and mugging is suitable substitute for acting, and no matter

how inept or morally bankrupt you may be, someday, you'll make a damn good cop. Most of all, I learned that through pranking, slacking, and various sexual hi-jinks, I too can achieve whatever I desire in life ... but at a cost.

After doing *Short Circuit*, the *Cocoon* movies, and two of the *Three Men and a Baby* films, Steve "My Career Took off Like the *Hindenberg*" Guttenberg was cast into the stinking pit of washed-up actors to languish in works like *The Big Green*, *Zeus and Roxanne*, and *It Takes Two* (a Mary-Kate and Ashley film).

The Gute has taught us all a valuable lesson. You can only get so far in life by pranking, slacking, and engaging in various sexual hi-jinks, especially if you can't act for shit. There might come a time when any of us have to roll your pride up into a bitter black ball and eat it on top of a giant slice of humble pie. And if this happens you just have to keep on doing what you do best, being it carpentry after the house you built collapses, writing after being published in the *Gateway*, or making really bad movies whether they're popular or

not.

According to the Internet Movie Database, old Steve hasn't thrown in the towel—in fact he's slated to star in a film he co-wrote and will direct this year! The name of this future classic? *PS, Your Cat is Dead*.

So what does Canadian politics have in common with Canadian politics? The answer my friends, is Kim Cattrall, one of the sultry stars of TV's *Sex and the City*. You may not remember, but before she went on to do *Mannequin*, she was cadet Mahoney's love interest in the first *Police Academy*. In real life, she also dated former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau. Things obviously didn't pan out, but I'm sure it had nothing to do with him being almost 40 years her senior.

Like Guttenberg, Trudeau paid the cost of a life spent pranking, slacking, and engaging in various sexual hi-jinks, and died. Personally, I figure that I've only got a few more really good years of pranking, slacking, and various sexual hi-jinks, so I'd better make the most of it. In the meantime, ride on Steve Guttenberg, ride on.

High natural gas prices a short-term problem



Oluropo Rufus Ayodele

Is natural gas drying up? Despite skyrocketing natural gas prices, the answer is probably not.

But there are still many unanswered questions about the future of natural gas. North American energy economics gurus and natural gas producers, especially those based in Calgary (which supplied up to 16 per cent of US gas requirements), have been shouting for months that higher prices would be inevitable.

Despite this, no one expected the average price to rise as high as we have now. New records for the price of natural gas were set at the New York Mercantile Exchange; in the month of January, delivery jumped to about \$8.485 US per million British Thermal Units. This is an increase in price of more than 80 per cent since the end of last year.

Last year, the same amount of energy equivalent of natural gas sold for a little less than an average of \$2 US. Why is this happening? During winter months across North America and Europe, demand for natural gas used in heating homes usually rises.

This time around, such demand cannot be adequately met due to low supply. This is because recent expansion in the world economy is also creating additional demand for clean and cheaper sources of energy like natural gas. These demands are coming at a time when reserves of natural gas are dwindling. But expanded gas production will be established in the future in several parts of the world. An example is the gas production from the Nigerian LNG project.

Unfortunately, there is no solution for the short term in sight.

Consumers will probably bear the burden of most of these costs, especially in the newly deregulated electricity markets in certain parts of North America. Most energy utility boards and corporations use natural gas to generate power for distribution to various homes and industrial parks.

I feel governments across North America should consider this problem as an emergency situation and

Consumers will probably bear the burden of most of these costs, especially in the newly deregulated electricity markets in certain parts of North America.

tackle it as soon as possible.

The US government has already taken the initiative by releasing 30 million barrels of oil from emergency reserves to cushion this effect (especially in the southern part of California, which was badly hurt by a deregulated energy utility market).

Consider the recent energy tax rebates doled out to taxpayers by the Alberta government to counter higher energy bills. The provincial government also temporarily stopped energy utility companies which operate in the province's

deregulated energy utility sector from further increasing the cost of energy. These measures are necessary for emergency cases like our present situation. Once the supply-and-demand situation improves, such measures should be discontinued since it will be better for the consumers in the long run to have a less regulated or fully deregulated energy utility sector.

The long-term solution is to start encouraging exploration and production of natural gas where it is much in abundance. Such areas include the Canadian Northern Territories, Arctic and Alaska regions and in the Saudi Arabian desert. Saudi Arabia is planning an ambitious multi-billion dollar gas exploration in the country's gas frontiers in conjunction with multinational oil and gas companies.

Even Canada is looking into major gas exploration. US President-elect George W Bush has already made exploration of Alaska to alleviate gas prices part of his campaign.

Of course, environmentalists have many concerns that should be taken seriously before exploration begins.

But with the need for new sources of gas being a pressing concern, surely, a compromise can be reached.

Dave Alexander's **TOP TEN**

New Year's resolutions for the highly unstable

- 10 I will only stuff turkeys with stuffing, instead of myself.
- 9 I will push strangers down staircases if—and only if—they are trying to read my mind.
- 8 I will take my pills when the instructions say to do so, not when my cat decrees it.
- 7 I will stop sending Stockwell Day my soiled underwear. He will only fresh pairs.
- 6 I will try my hardest at work to get promoted from cowboy to Queen of the Ants.
- 5 I will start a recycling program that doesn't involve urine.
- 4 I will take better care of that rabid kid locked in basement.
- 3 I will end the affair with Rasputin and try to reconcile with Aquaman.
- 2 I will lose 20 pounds so I can fit into my old straightjacket.
- 1 There is no mythical creature as a half-unicycle-half-monkey, so I will cease the experiments and the funding applications immediately.



File Photo / THE GATEWAY

Comrade! I will give you a pound of butter if you will please take these horrible books away from me. I luv Russia.

New semester; same old crap



Chris Boutet

By the time this is in print, we'll all have already endured four loving spoonfuls of delicious school, but for me, it's Monday. I'm tired and somehow already behind in my classes, even though all we did was go through the syllabus, and now I'm expected to write an article. I guess that's the problem with writing for a newspaper: you're counted upon to "write things" on a "regular basis," which of course is totally "unreasonable."

Well, today I figured that instead of me trying to compose something marginally original and thought provoking, I would just rehash the same banal, well-trodden topics on which you've come to expect a large percentage of *Gateway* articles to be based in the first weeks of any term.

So enjoy the ensuing laff-filled hilarity as we scrape the bottom of the comic-observation barrel!

Standing in the hallway!

Hey, what's with people always standing in the hallway, huh? What a bunch of jerks! What's the matter, are you guys afraid of walls or something? I'm trying to walk here! As if walking places doesn't suck enough, I clearly need gossiping retards with gigantic backpacks performing what is basically the pedestrian version of slamming on your brakes and parking sideways on the freeway. I hate you, please die. Sincerely, Christopher Boutet.

Bookstore lineups!

Man, those Bookstore lineups sure are long, hey? Like really long! Ha ha! It's just like post-war Russia, except instead of purchasing simple goods such as toilet paper and dignity, we're spending hundreds of dollars on slightly updated fourth editions of various Psychology texts! I think a great way to solve this "problem" would be to merely have a computer where you type in the courses in which you are enrolled, and then all the required texts are fired out of a pneumatic tube at completely insane speeds, directly at your head. Then you're dead, and

Man, those Bookstore lineups sure are long, hey? Like really long! Ha ha! It's just like post-war Russia, except instead of purchasing simple goods such as toilet paper and dignity, we're spending hundreds of dollars on slightly updated fourth editions of various Psychology texts!

your body is carelessly bulldozed into a mass grave slightly to your left that I probably should have mentioned before. But then you wouldn't have stood there, I guess. Hmm, actually this is a completely stupid idea. Hey, look at me! I'm wasting your time!

New Year's resolutions!

Isn't it totally funny how we resolve to better ourselves in one way or another, but are always foiled by our inherent weaknesses as human beings? Ha ha! You bet it's funny!

For instance, I usually resolve to get in shape or lose weight to varying degrees, but still I eat total garbage and get drunk while watching hockey games or fucking about on my computer! I want to look good without a shirt on, but I'm too lazy and uninspired to raise myself to any level of decent health! Hilarious! Alternately totally depressing.

Sigh.

Cell phones!

"Hey, check me out! I'm on a cell phone! I'm all talking to my friends!"

THE BURLAP SACK

I hate the HUB Housing Administration.

Oh yeah. Justification. Sigh.

First, summer storage in HUB (this is simply storing your stuff in your room so you don't need to move everything for the summer) cost 35 per cent rent per month, a *totally justified* increase up from 25 per cent the previous summer.

But, here's funny for you. I get hired at the *Gateway*. I need to move up to Edmonton before classes begin in September.

First, this is dumb because in the contract for summer storage in HUB it says that moving in before the end date is breach of contract. Oh, logic. Funny how me saying, "I want to move in early and give you guys more money," would appear to cause problems.

Luckily, this was not an issue. I merely had to send a fax to them stating that I was moving in and needed Mr Dan Lazin to obtain my keys for me since I was moving up

Ow, my head hurts. Does anyone else smell burnt toast? I think this bald patch by my ear is getting bigger, you guys. Hello?" [Audible sounds of cancer dividing.]

Man, that cell-phone-talking-guy sure sounds confused! But I guess you would be too if you had a malignant tumour the size of a kitten in your brain. Cancer? Amusing! Sure, smoking leads to a tragically short life, but try explaining to your kids that you're dying because you had too many conversations about where you were walking to and if you were taping *Dharma and Greg* that night.

Man, that was easy! I should waste readers' time more often. Unless I already do. Which is most likely the case. Hmm ...

Oh well! Here's the part where I say that we're all going to have a lot of fun this year and that you should make the most of your university experience by joining a club or volunteering for the *Gateway* or something. Because if you did, then you could write this tired shit and I could get in a lot more hockey, beer, and delicious Doritos.

on a weekend and was unable to get them myself.

I faxed the sheet twice and called to make sure the Housing Office had indeed received my request. Everything was fine. Good, good then.

Eventually, Dan went to go get the keys. Uh oh. They had the keys (of course) but no letter. Without the letter of permission, Dan can't get the keys.

After a good five minutes of searching they finally found it, packed away in one of many tiny "filing boxes."

"It's a good thing we found this or we wouldn't have been able to give you these keys," said the woman.

"It's a good thing you guys aren't retarded," said Dan.

DAVID "ANGRY" ZEIBIN

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

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UNION GSA

Varsity teams eyeing upcoming playoffs



Tom W Smerd / THE GATEWAY

Listen to coach Baker, and the Pandas may just have a chance.

Barrie Tanner
SPORTS EDITOR

With half the season over and Christmas break behind them, the University of Alberta's varsity teams are left pondering their fate as their respective playoffs approach. I caught up to most of the University's coaches to find out what they think happened in the first half, where they sit now and the trials they foresee as they sit on the brink of the second half of the 2000/2001 season. **Don Horwood** is the head coach of the Bears basketball team, which is in first place in Canada West with an 11-1 record. **Dale Johns** is an assistant coach for the Bears volleyball team, which is in second place in Canada West with an 8-2 record. **Laurie Eisler** is head coach of the Pandas volleyball program, which holds fourth place in Canada West with an even 6-6 record. **Howie Draper** leads the Pandas hockey team, which is ranked first in their division, second in the conference. **Trix Baker** heads the Pandas basketball team, which currently sits in sixth place in the league at 4-8.



Keith Wood / THE GATEWAY

Meanwhile, the Bears volleyballers are shooting for the top.

How has your team fared so far compared to expectations?

Horwood: We are right on as far as my expectations are concerned. I knew we would be good and I believe we are the power in Canada West and if we continue to play to our potential, we should win the West.

Johns: Our record is good but there are more tougher matches in the second half which will challenge the team each and every night. We have played very well during certain matches and other times we have looked very average.

Eisler: We have progressed a lot from where we started—we are a much better team now than we were in the fall. We knew that the league would be very close and unfortunately we are lower than we hoped right now, but we're still in the battle, which is good.

Draper: Very well. We've been able to generate more offense than

what we thought coming into the year. Despite trying find the perfect fit in terms of line combinations, our forwards have done a great job. Defensively, we're right where we want to be. We've got the best defense in Canada West which is backstopped by the best goalie in the CIAU—we've been very pleased with the team's progress in general.

Baker: I had no expectations at the very beginning of the year, but once we started competing I thought we would be very competitive in the league and in the country. We are competitive, but we need to win some of the close ones.

If you could describe the first half of the year for the team in one word, what would it be?

Horwood: Consistency.

Johns: Disappointing.

Eisler: Learning.

Draper: Growth.

Baker: Challenging.

Looking ahead, what are the biggest challenges your team will face for the last half of the year?

Horwood: Just to stay consistent and be ready for every game. Often we have beaten a team by 20 on Friday and then it's hard for the players to "get up" for the Saturday game.

Johns: Preparing to play in tough matches night-in and night-out every weekend.

Eisler: Dealing with the pressures associated with every league match being the equivalent of a sudden death play-off match. If we can play well under these conditions, then we have a chance to achieve our goals.

Draper: We have to become more consistent as a unit. We think we've found a good mix in terms of line combinations, and now we just have to give them as much opportunity to work within their lines as possible. If we can continue to improve over the course of the next

few weeks, we should have a great chance of repeating as Canada West champions.

Baker: The biggest challenge will be to get over the idea that we're hosting Nationals and it doesn't matter what we do up until that time. We have to have intense practices every day and we have to learn how to win the close games by finishing our shots throughout the entire game. We must realize games are not won in the last two minutes of the game.

Who do you expect to be your toughest competitors leading up to playoffs?

Horwood: Victoria as of now seems to be our biggest rival, but we don't play them until the last league games.

Johns: As in past years, all the Canada West teams are tough competition. There are no easy matches as we head to the playoffs. Obviously, U of C (first place), U of S (third place), UBC (fourth

place) and Trinity Western (fifth place) are the teams we must beat to have a successful season.

Eisler: Saskatchewan last weekend, UBC this weekend, Manitoba and Calgary.

Draper: We've only got UBC and Calgary leading up to playoffs and both teams are among the weaker teams in Canada West, although I'm sure they will show improvement since we last played them. Our first major test in the second half will be Lethbridge in the semifinals. We need to have a strong game against them to advance confidently to the Canada West finals where we will most likely meet Regina. Regina has proven to be our strongest competition in the West. They will be the team to beat in order for us to regain our Canada West championship.

Baker: Every opponent is tough for us. There are no easy weekends.

Good hockey competition, but 'Cats and 'Birds don't have a prayer

Collin Gallant
SPORTS STAFF

If the saying that "to be the best you've got to play the best" is true, it's easy to see why the Golden Bears are so good and provide a better measure for exactly how good they are.

In the last four years, the Western Conference of the CIAU Men's Hockey could boast four National Champions and the two best teams in the country, namely the Golden Bears and the Huskies. But this year has seen the number of Western entries in the national standings rise from three to five. The three new entries are proving that the best hockey in the country is west of Lake Superior.

Here is a look at the other teams in the West and how they stack up.

Western Division



Lethbridge Pronghorns
National rank: 8

Very good recruiting is the reason the Pronghorns have broken into the CIAU top ten. Having 14 new players in the line-up, their solid

play against some very good teams has kept them there.

Backstopping duties have been split between rookie Andy Houthays and Scott Tollestrup, fresh from a cup of coffee in minor pro. They boast similar records, at 3.50 GAA overall. Fifth-year instigator Ray Guze has finally figured out how to include the scoring angle of his Claude Lemieux impression making himself at least bearable to watch.

But overall the team runs middle of the pack in offensive and defensive categories.

Expect one hell of a series in West Division semi-finals, no matter whether it's held in Calgary or Lethbridge.



Calgary Dinos
National rank: 10

Despite changing their name from the Dinosaurs to simply the Dinos, Calgary has remained a strong, masculine presence in the West Division although some of their thunder has been lost to an insurgent Lethbridge team on an upswing.

Calgary is the most offensive team in Canada West. This may be

is surprising after losing the CIAU rookie of the year for 98/99, Eric Schneider, to the IHL Kansas City Blades in the middle of last season. Schneider was a serious contender on the Canada-wide scoring board in both his seasons, but other players have matured to spread the offense around.

Too bad they give up as many as they get, giving up an average of four goals a game. You could say they are in the second year of rebuilding defence, which can be suspect at times.

They lack the killer instinct that closes the deal, illustrated by their taking Alberta twice to overtime in the first half and twice falling apart in the third to lose this half. Let's not mention that nasty little tie against Brandon.

Eastern Division



Manitoba Bisons
National rank: 4

This contender has finally added some speed into their team's line-up, helping to transform their positional game plan to a transitional dream.

This has helped the herd tre-

mendously. It has been the difference between coming up a day late and a dollar short against the Huskies and putting it over the top. They usually play to low-scoring affairs, but the players have been known to turn up the scoring when needed in a few recent bouts. They owe thanks in part to massive goalkeeper Tim Winters (6'1", 230 lbs), who boasts a 9-3-2 record, and Marc Gaudet, with 27 points in 16 games.

The Bisons twice took the defending National-champ Bears to overtime in the first-half series, coming away with a tie. The return match promises to be a good 'un.

The best thing of course is that they finally killed the myth that the only contender in the East would be Saskatchewan.



Saskatchewan Huskies
National rank: 7

The Huskies, while finding themselves in the strange place, which is to say not first in the East Division, are a very solid team.

Don't forget that the Huskies will probably be the first team to beat Alberta when they meet this weekend.



Regina Cougars
Not ranked

Regina is a little better than both cellar dwellers but deserve very little ink. They will make the playoffs by virtue of playoff format. Done.

Out of the playoffs



Brandon Bobcats
Not ranked

These are the redheaded stepchildren of Canada West hockey, the equivalent of bye-weeks.

Brandon is ten games below .500 and is being outscored two to one. In only 14 games, they have given up nine short-handed goals. As to why this has happened after they vied for the wildcard to the national championships last year? Some things are not worth contemplating.



UBC Thunderbirds
Not ranked

UBC is also ten games below the competent mark, even with their slightly tighter defense. Really, this team has not done anything interesting in recent memory.

SPORTS COMMENTARY

Unfair Panda play brought about Dino-defeating changes

Lawrence Bailey
THE GAUNTLET

CALGARY — What do you do if improving opposition is challenging your supremacy?

Well, if you're a hockey-playing Panda, you get them to change the rules. The University of Alberta's women's hockey team is (surprise, surprise) atop the standings heading into the Christmas break. As for the lady Dinos, well, their performance has been compared to a horse flogging. In other words, less than stellar.

Before we lynch our ladies, though, there are some behind-the-scenes dealings that need to be carefully examined.

In the off-season a rule change came into effect, heavily supported by the Pandas program and incredibly damaging to the program at the U of C. The rule stipulated that a player could no longer be signed to more than one team.

For the displaced Pandas living in Alberta's north, this had little to no effect, as splitting time between club and school is not an issue. The Pandas have a solid program where there is plenty of opportunity to play a significant number of games and they face no direct competition from high level clubs within their own city. They are the premiere program in town.

As those of us in Calgary know, there are a great deal of Olympic training centers in our fine city, including the women's Olympic hockey program, easily the best in the world. This leads to divided loyalties, as well as divided ice time. The Olympic Oval is home to both the Dinos and the club teams that are used to develop talent for the Olympic program.

Previously, it was perfectly fine for a member of the University of Calgary's team to practice and play with the Dinos and supplement that with a club affiliation. In the interests of increased ice time for the players and competitiveness, the two programs would share their talent. The result was an improvement in the quality of player produced for our country, an improvement in the Olympic team's player development and a rapidly improving Dinos squad.

What they failed to realize is that events beyond [the Dinos'] control would lead to the return of only a handful of players, devastating their program and giving the Pandas the breathing room they shrewdly maneuvered their way into off the ice.

This led to a close, well-fought final between these two aforementioned university teams, ending with the Pandas squeaking out a victory and fearing the improving competition. The Pandas went to Nationals and won while the Dinos took a well-deserved break before preparing for next year.

What they failed to realize is that events beyond their control would lead to the return of only a handful of players, devastating their program

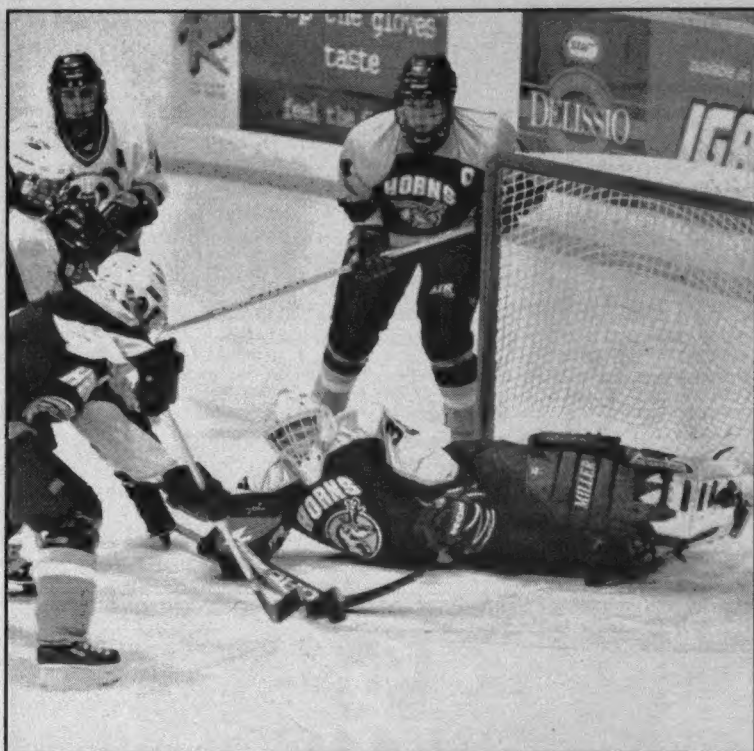
It's a travesty for everyone that the pride of a university program is undercutting the development of players in our Olympic system.

and giving the Pandas the breathing room they shrewdly maneuvered their way into off the ice.

It's a travesty for everyone that the pride of a university program is undercutting the development of players in our Olympic system. Given the choice between the increased ice time and opportunity

afforded them by the national program and the labor of love that is a university team, the choice was simple. What ensued was a mad scramble in U of C Athletics to salvage the program, gaping holes at every position, a 1-8-1 record and a cocky pack of Pandas greedily eyeing a defense of their national title.

I must extend my congratulations to the Pandas, whose impending fourth consecutive Canada West title is a testament to their dominance on the ice as well as in the political arena. Bully to you!



File Photo / THE GATEWAY

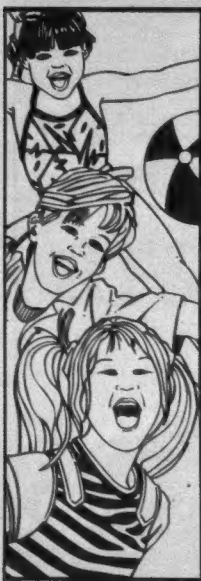
The Pandas scored as many political points as they did goals last year.

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Crossroads Family Services Inc. is a Provincially Accredited Foster Care Agency which offers family based care for children and adolescents who have experienced abuse, neglect and loss of family. Our agency is currently in need of advanced and general foster parents who are willing to be a part of a team trained in therapeutic care for short and long-term placements for children of all ages. We are especially seeking families with: *teen skills*, a heart for *hurting kids*, and those skilled in working with *aboriginal* peoples, and, First Nations foster families.

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For more information, call Blair at 929-2633



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Banks on Campus

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- CIBC will be in HUB Mall January 2-15
- Royal Bank will be on the 3rd Floor SUB January 8-12

Supplementary Bursary Application

Don't Forget to Get Your application in to SFAIC by January 15, 2001 by 4:30pm

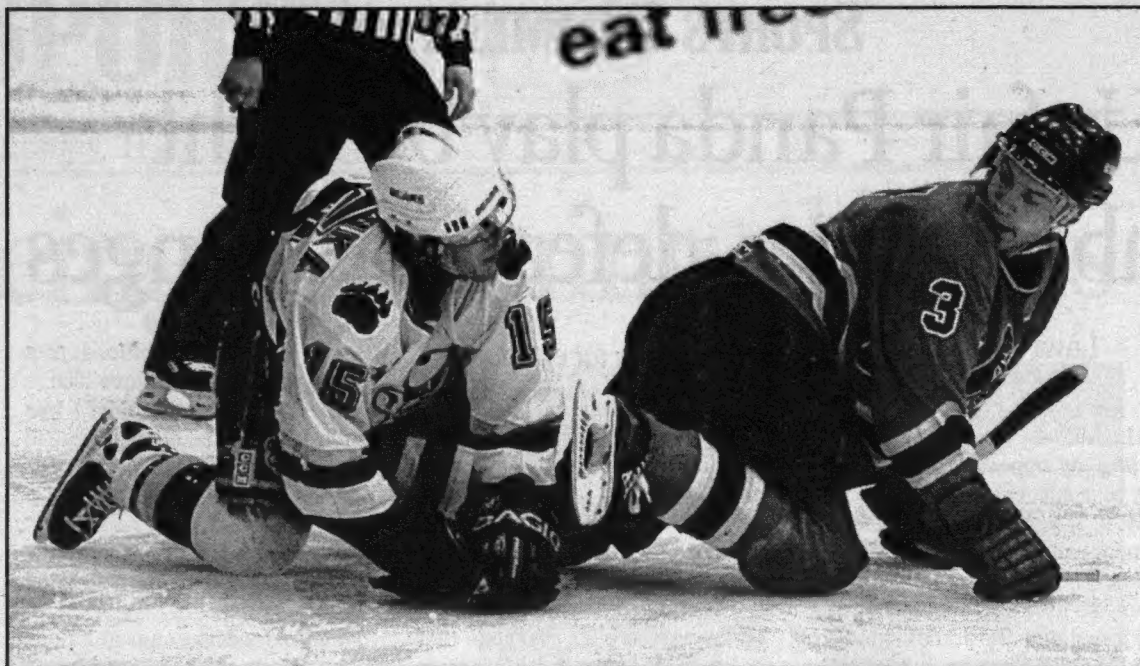
Students' Union Building (2-700)
www.su.ualberta.ca/sfaic

Contact Info:

phone: 492-3483
fax: 492-9607
e-mail: sfaic@su.ualberta.ca



University of Alberta



Graham Bakay / THE GATEWAY

The Bears can't stumble early like they did last weekend against the Dinos. They'll only have 4:19 to finish the game.

Bears hockey hits the road for triple-header

Barrie Tanner
SPORTS EDITOR

The top-ranked Golden Bears hockey squad will be heading into Saskatoon to take on the Huskies in an unusual triple-header that sees them finish a suspended game, then complete the two-match series.

The unfinished match dates back to 24 October, the last meeting of the Bears and Huskies, when a power failure prevented the completion of the game with 4:19 remaining in the third with the Huskies up 3-2.

The Bears are currently ranked number-one in the country, while Saskatchewan holds down seventh. The Bears also boast the best defense in Canada West, with only 29 goals against in 15 games, including five shutouts.

Between the pipes, Clayton Pool continues to backstop the Bears with the best netminder performance in the conference.

But all these accolades will mean nothing when the Bears step onto the ice in Saskatchewan to face the players who have arguably been

their most competitive opponents to date.

"They come out piss and vinegar every time we play," said veteran Bear Bobby Niedzielski.

The weekend will be a good measuring stick to see where we're at... It's definitely going to be the toughest test we've faced so far this season.

— Ryan Marsh, captain,
Golden Bears hockey

The Bears will need to be sharp for the first 4:19 of play, since they will finish off the suspended game before starting Friday's match. Simulating the position of the puck at the time of the blackout, the face-off will be in the Alberta zone on the right side of the net. Getting up for the first four minutes of the game will be difficult for the Bears, taking into account their less-than-dramatic opening periods in last week's home-and-home series against the Dinos.

The rumored addition of three defenseman from the WHL to the

Huskies lineup will help them lock-down on their defense or stall the game: to win, all they need is to hold out for just over four minutes.

Another factor the Bears must consider is the rink size in Saskatoon, which is even smaller than the Bears' barn, in turn considered small by national standards.

"They'll try to intimidate us," predicted Niedzielski, who was sick for last weekend's series. "They've got some big guys that will try to use their size on the small [ice] surface."

With the Huskies' powerful fore-checking that sees them come in wide, then move in strong on the defenseman, the Bears will have to stay sharp in their own zone, a factor that will be especially important for the remaining 4:19 of the suspended game.

"The weekend will be a good measuring stick to see where we're at," commented Bear captain Ryan Marsh.

"It's definitely going to be the toughest test we've faced so far this season."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday Jan 11

Wrestling

Bears & Pandas vs Regina
8:00 pm
Butterdome

Friday Jan 12

Volleyball

Bears vs UBC
6:30 pm
U of A Main Gym

Pandas vs UBC
8:00 pm
U of A Main Gym

Saturday Jan 13

Hockey

Pandas vs Calgary Dinos
6:00 pm
Clare Drake Arena

Volleyball

Pandas vs UBC
6:30 pm
U of A Main Gym

Bears vs UBC
8:00 pm
U of A Main Gym

Wrestling

Golden Bear Open
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Butterdome

Come show pride in your green & gold

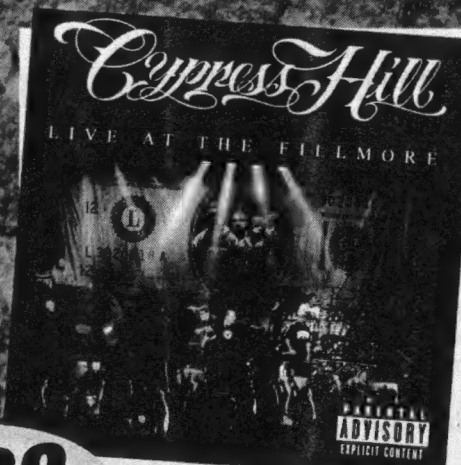


for ticket info:
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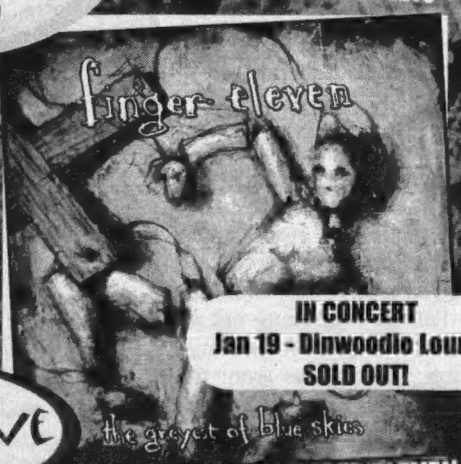
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I Growing up in a small town like Wetaskiwin can be great, but with few East Indians around, I had little opportunity to immerse myself in my ancestral culture. Even though the first language my parents taught me was Punjabi, it quickly became interspersed and eventually dominated by English, to the point that I seldom spoke the original language anymore. My parents promoted our ethnic heritage as much as they could, but fitting in as a Canadian was more important to me than coming to terms with my heritage as an Indo-Canadian.

It wasn't until an East Indian friend called me "white-washed" that I went into a serious cultural depression, propelling me down an obsessive path to learn as much about India as I possibly could. I'm unsure whether I'm compensating for my own lack of knowledge or simply trying to reach those who want to learn more about the truly exotic land of India, but in either case, there are a few things to keep in mind before we begin integrating India's culture into North America's trends and fads. While the word "India" once conjured up visions of starving peasants overflowing from their villages and flooding into cities, this stereotypical image has slowly been amended courtesy of lessons from Western pop culture. Rather than focusing faithfully on cultural issues, celebrities have instead tended to dissect India's religions.

FROM ADOPTED MEHNDI TO MOSTLY UNIMPORTED BOLLYWOOD, EAST-INDIAN CULTURE IS DANCING BETWEEN BECOMING A NEW FAD AND REMAINING A POORLY UNDERSTOOD MYSTERY TO THE WESTERN WORLD

article by neil parmar

photos and styling by Nikhil Rao, Rajeev Nair, Anna Carastathis, Carl Schreuders, Dean Simmons, Jessie Meikle, Mike Wharmby, Sarah Haddow, Patrick Finlay

The music icon Madonna, of late the most prominent appropriator of Indian culture, impressed the West with her weaving of Sanskrit mantras into her songs, but deeply offended the East during her quest for spiritualism. After listening to her mispronounce the Deva bhasha (the language of the gods) on her single "Shanti-Ashtangi," Hindus watched as the Material Girl strut her stuff at the 1998 MTV Video Music Awards clad in tilak markings once worn only on the face of Brahman priests.

Although many saw her performance as an expression of her genuine interest in the Indian culture, the World Vaishnava Society quickly condemned the act as an attempt at mixing "Eastern mysticism and Western hedonism."

"By wearing this sacred marking while wearing clothing through which her nipples were clearly visible and while gyrating in a sexually suggestive manner with her guitar player, Madonna offended Hindus and Vaishnavas throughout the world," stated spokesperson Tusta Krishnadas.

A yoga devotee of the group added that Madonna either "misunderstood the significance of wearing tilak or treated it cheaply. We sincerely hope it was the former and not the latter," he said.

The issue with music artists defaming India's religions reached a peak of controversy in 1997 when Aerosmith released an album cover for *Nine Lives* portraying an image of the divine Krishna in the midst of a serpent's arms—only this time the deity had been given the breasts of a woman and the head of a cat. The band discontinued use of the picture and rereleased the album in a slightly different format—but only after Hindu organizations protested the image.

Hindu advocate Monica Mehta agrees that India "is an easy target for artists looking to incorporate exoticness into their repertoire," but believes that "these uses of Hinduism's culture and icons can't even touch the central tenets of the faith. [East Indians] feel that rock stars such as Madonna and Aerosmith don't respect their culture and exploit its inherent tolerance of different forms of expression," says Mehta. "But this tolerance is precisely what has allowed Hinduism to withstand mass attack and corruption. Its non-resistance to change is the very thing that makes it strong despite time and adulteration."

Continued on page 12



Continued from page 11

Kadali Ramesh, former President of the University of Alberta's India Students' Association, adds that "as long as these symbols are not used in a sacrilegious way I don't think any Indian would have any objection. But instances like [when] some American companies print Hindu deities on toilet seats and ladies' fashion shoes, or [when] holy scripts [are] recited in the background music [while] sexual orgies are going on in the movie *Eyes Wide Shut*, make Indians not very happy."

Yet another singer, lead vocalist Gwen Stefani of No Doubt, was recently decried by East Indian women after she began wearing bindhis—religious markings worn on the forehead—with Western outfits. They saw a paradox in the fact that when Indian women wore bindhis in public it was regarded by westerners as a bizarre religious tradition, while Stefani and other Western women were acclaimed for their exotic style. The bindhi, also referred to as a kumkum or tika, is considered one of the true markings of an East-Indian woman and while many people refer to this symbolic point on the forehead by its racially slang term "paki dot," few know its historical significance.

In ancient tradition, the bindhi was displayed on the forehead always in red to represent a person's love for her god or goddess when offering the deity a blood sacrifice. While villagers eventually adapted their ritual to using gifts instead of blood, they kept the symbolic marking and its positioning in the area directly between the eyebrows. The area was seen to encompass the seat of latent wisdom and controlled various levels of

concentration attained through meditation. It is further believed in Tantric custom that meditation releases the quiescent power from the base of the spine and carries it to the seventh chakra, Sahasrara, situated in the head. The bindhi then acts as a gate for this energy, either sealing in the power or opening as a portal to the outside world.

Another popular form of Indian body art comes in the adoption of mehndi decorative adornments. Actresses and models like Liv Tyler, Demi Moore, and Naomi Campbell have helped create a demand for Western henna parlors almost overnight.

Mehndi, commonly referred to as henna, originated in India as part of a ceremonial practice in marriage. Its symbolic history dates back 5000 years, when the temporary coloring was applied to the hands and feet in appeal to Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity, love, and good fortune. She is often depicted as a lotus flower in intricate mehndi designs which extend across the hands and arms of a bride-to-be. If Lakshmi is pleased, it is said that she fulfills the couple's wishes by blessing their marriage and providing protection over the bride when she gives birth to her first child.

Women are usually the ones accustomed to wearing the mehndi, but some religions do permit the groom's family to dip the tips of their little fingers in the liquid as a show of acceptance towards the marriage. Once the green-toned mehndi dries, it is washed off and leaves an undercolor of orange in whatever pattern was originally applied to the hand. It is said that the darker a mehndi design is, the longer and deeper a groom's love is for his wife.

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action, the bindhi was displayed on the forehead always in the person's love for her god or goddess when offering the deity. While villagers eventually adapted their ritual to using oil or blood, they kept the symbolic marking and its positioning between the eyebrows. The area was seen to encompass wisdom and controlled various levels of concentration attained through meditation.

Yet as mehndi and bindhis have been manipulated to conform to Western fashions, India's motion picture industry has established itself as an independent force of Indian cultural integrity.

It is a scene long known for its ubiquitous escapist movies. It's a land filled with the swish of opulent saris, melodramatic love affairs, and the happily-ever-after story endings that everybody prays for. Welcome to the world of Bollywood.

The name Bollywood was created as a hybrid of Bombay and Hollywood, and is cited by the Indian Film Directors Association as the world's largest motion-picture industry with production of over 800 films annually. But with an average of over two films produced daily, the intense competition for the box-office rupee has led to grandiose musical sequences involving dozens of singers and dancers lip syncing to songs in the most outlandish of locations (including scenes everywhere from the tops of moving trains to the chilly mountainsides of the Himalayas).

"Bollywood films had some meaning long [ago] but now I feel they are losing their authenticity," says Hemlata Chari, who is currently working on a doctoral dissertation at the University of Alberta. "I think a lot [of Bollywood's success] depends on the styles of colorful costumes, the beautiful locations, and the commitment of actors (like Aishwarya) to their roles ... but if you take *any* theme, you will find it in Indian films."

Chari's knowledge of the Indian film industry comes from the fact that she once lived in Bombay's suburb of Mumbai, an area of the city roughly equivalent to Los Angeles's Beverly Hills. Chari was not only surrounded by Bollywood stars when she grew up, and she taught at the same school from where the film starlet and 1994 Miss World, Aishwarya Raiwas, was educated.

"Still," she says, "there are producers who make good family films [that] are more or less taken from real life situations and based on [India's] family system and culture—that's the reason it has mass appeal."

This directorial strategy of incorporating India's socio-cultural problems into Bollywood's productions has branched from a history of filmmaking that is similar to that in America and elsewhere. In 1896, the Lumiere brothers brought moving pictures to Bombay, and from this, an industry developed, first showing newsreels and eventually importing feature films.

India's first domestic film, a silent picture entitled *Raja Harishchandra*, explored Hindu mythology and featured male actors exclusively, as women were forbidden to act at the time.

Although the 1920s saw the emergence of female actresses and over 1200 films produced within the decade, it wasn't until the 1940s that Bollywood truly began to emerge as an international phenomenon.

It was a time of incredible political and historical change which inevitably infiltrated the themes of many films. There was the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, the tragedies of the World War Two, and India's acquisition of independence from Britain.

In the realm of Bollywood, there was the disappearance of the studio system, the national box-office hit *Kismet* (which ran in Calcutta for three years straight), and the presentation of *Neecha Nagar* in 1947's Cannes Film Festival—the first major Indian film to receive international acclaim.

"Different Bollywood movies have different themes," agrees Praveen Rao, an avid watcher of the films and pharmacy student at the U of A. "But most of the times the theme depends on the hero—[the] heroine only to some extent—[and] it always tries to match the themes with the common man and his life."

"Most are based on Indian values and culture which may sound or look strange [to an] international audience, so Bollywood directors have to think about this if they want a share of [the] international market," continues Rao. "Another important thing is that it keeps the culture and traditional Indian values intact which the Indian community in North America miss a lot."

Ramesh agrees with Rao, adding that "when you watch a movie, you identify yourself with a leading character [who is] typically of the same race as you. For a new immigrant from India it's [easier] to identify with a character in an Indian movie than with, say, Harrison Ford in *The Fugitive*. That's why many Indo-Canadians still love watching Indian movies," he says.

The majority of Indo-Canadians and other Bollywood fanatics view their movies through video rentals which can be as cheap as \$2.50 per cassette. For this reason alone, Hollywood is still the money-making capital of the film industry, despite the fact that in terms of pure production numbers Bollywood surpasses any other motion picture production centre.

This mass production of films has led to a quicker distribution of videos, and therefore a decrease in box-office profit.

Although the present-day availability of films on video is a growing threat to the industry, especially with the combination of relatively high theatre ticket prices at home in India, this problem has had a positive effect in the gradual production of more taboo-negating films. Independent filmmakers are now further exploring themes of class, religion, race, and sexuality to the point of censorship, like in the case of Deepa Mehta's 1996 film, *Fire*, which was shown on CBC Television this past weekend.

The movie is one of three films by Mehta metaphorically based on the elements of fire, earth and water, but the trilogy's story centers on Indian politics of sexuality, nationalism, and religion. In an interview conducted by *Earth Times* during last year's release of *Earth*, Mehta admitted that "the world is starting to take notice of Indian films and Indian filmmakers."

"*Salaam Bombay* was a breakthrough film, as was Shekhar Kapur's *Bandit Queen* and then *Fire*," she said. "But it's the filmmakers themselves that have gained recognition internationally—Kapur's *Elizabeth*, Shyamalan's *Sixth Sense*, and Mira Nair's *Kama Sutra*, [which] broke all records in Singapore. The most a film can do is create an awareness, and that by itself is a great deal."

Creating awareness was exactly what my parents had hoped to do when they began inviting me to watch Hindi movies on the weekends with them, but being raised in Wetaskiwin with only one major movie theatre left all but one option available: drive to Little India in Edmonton and rent the video for an entire week.

At that time, the idea seemed absurd. Why bother putting so much effort into viewing a movie made by a country that was so far away? The answer: it's a part of my history as an Indo-Canadian. And although it has taken me years to discover an interest in India, its culture was never forced upon me without my asking. That's exactly what a culture should be—a history that's ready to be appreciated at your own rate and applied towards your future.

Student Involvement Awards



The Students' Union provides awards to those students who have made significant contributions to the improvement of the quality of student life on campus through involvement in clubs, fraternities, faculty associations, volunteerism, and leadership at the University of Alberta and throughout the community.

Each applicant or nominee is required to submit:

1. A completed application form
2. A recent transcript,
3. a brief two page resumé,
4. two letters of reference and
5. a five hundred word statement explaining why they qualify for the award. (1000 words for Award of Excellence)

All Applicants must be full members of the Students' Union. Application forms are available at the reception desk at 2-900, SUB, CAB and HUB Info Booths, and Faculty Associations. With the exception of the SU Award For Excellence and the Gold Key Award, only one application form is required for all other awards.

Alberta Treasury Branches Involvement Award (\$500.00 award)*

Established by Alberta Treasury Branches to recognize students who maintain a high scholastic record while contributing volunteer time to the community. **Selection Criteria:** Must be enrolled in a business related program (i.e. B. Com., B.A. in Economics) and a Canadian Citizen who has been a resident of Alberta for 5 years. Priority will be given to students in financial need. Must include a copy of most current transcript with application.

Anne Louise Mundell Humanitarian Award

(\$400.00 and \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate) To perpetuate the memory of Anne Louise (MacLeod) Mundell, a student at the University of Alberta from 1915 to 1919, the "Anne Louise Mundell Humanitarian Award" is presented. Her activities at the University of Alberta included the Dramatic Society, the Literary Society, the Soldiers' Comfort Club, and the Wauneita Society. **Selection Criteria:** Must be involved in charity/volunteer work and be an active member of a club contributing to the development of the arts and culture on campus.

Cristal Mar Memorial Award

(\$400.00 and \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate) Established to remember and celebrate Cristal's contributions to the University of Alberta until she passed away in 1995. While working towards her acceptance into the Faculty of Pharmacy, Cristal balanced significant contributions to the University community with academic excellence. She was an active member of Safewalk and played a key role in the inaugural 1995 National Campus Safety Conference. Cristal will be remembered for her smile and dedication, both as a volunteer and as a friend. **Selection Criteria:** Must be a full-time student who has contributed to the greater campus community and demonstrates compassion towards fellow students. Priority will be given to students involved in a campus safety organization.

Dean Mortensen Award

(\$400.00 and \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate) To perpetuate the memory of Dean Mortensen, a first-year Science student and resident of St. Joseph's College who tragically disappeared on January 23, 1992 the "Dean Mortensen Award" is presented. He contributed to student life in many ways, namely through his dedication and commitment to St. Joseph's College and the St. Joseph's Rangers. **Selection Criteria:** Must show strong participation and leadership in campus recreation and intramural programs and have contributed toward a safer and more secure campus atmosphere.

Dr. Randy Gregg Athletics Award

(\$400.00 and \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate) Dr. Randy Gregg was a student at the University of Alberta from 1972 to 1980, receiving a Bachelor of Science and a Doctor of Medicine degree. He was a key player on the Golden Bears Hockey team and, as captain in 1979, led the team to national championship. Dr. Gregg represented Canada on the 1980 Winter Olympic hockey team, and went on to join the Edmonton Oilers in 1983. **Selection Criteria:** Must be involved in athletics, demonstrate strong leadership skills, and contribute to student life at the University of Alberta.

Eugene L. Brody Award

(\$400.00 and \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate)* To perpetuate the memory of Eugene L. Brody, B.A., B.Sc., a student at the University of Alberta for twenty-three years who had cerebral palsy and was able to make outstanding contributions in extra-curricular activities, the "Eugene L. Brody Award" is presented. Eugene Brody's strong personal philosophy was, "To have a full life, one has to struggle every step of the way."

Selection Criteria: Must have made a valuable contribution in extra-curricular campus activities; academic standing is a consideration in determining the winner.

Hilda Wilson Volunteer Recognition Award

(\$400.00 and \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate) The Hilda Wilson Volunteer Recognition Award was established to recognize congeniality and humanitarian dedication. At age 57, after two years in the Faculty of Arts, she entered the Faculty of Law. Unsurpassed in her dedication to her fellow students, Hilda's enthusiasm and energetic confidence as a volunteer endeared her to many. **Selection Criteria:** Must be a volunteer member of the Students' Union at the University of Alberta or a community service organization; demonstrate a sincere dedication to others.

Hooper-Munroe Academic Award

(\$200.00 award)* Named for Major R. C. W. Hooper, the past Dean of Men, and Miss Isobel Munroe, the past Dean of Women, the "Hooper-Munroe Academic Award" is presented to students who achieve academic excellence in the Intersections. This award consists of a two hundred dollar monetary prize. **Selection Criteria:** Must possess the highest GPA with a minimum nine credits obtained during Spring/Summer term of all of those who apply and must not have previously received this award.

Java Jive Merchants Ltd Award

(\$500.00 award) As a component of their lease agreement with the Students' Union, each year the Java Jive Merchants Ltd will present three monetary awards. **Selection Criteria:** Must combine service to the community and campus involvement, demonstrate leadership qualities and have a satisfactory academic standing.

Lorne Calhoun Award

(\$400.00 and \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate) To perpetuate the memory of Lorne Calhoun, B.A., a student at the University of Alberta from 1946 until his death in 1951, the "Lorne Calhoun Memorial Award" is presented. In assessing an individual's qualifications for this award, the Awards Committee shall consider the record of Lorne Calhoun who was active in debating (President of the Debating Society, founder of Debating Union, twice a member of the McGoun Cup Inter-Varsity Team), national and international organizations (member of International Relations Club, Chairman of Alberta Committee of International Student Services, executive member of Political Science Club, Speaker of Parliamentary Forum), and miscellaneous organizations (The Gateway, History Club, Men's Economics Club, Philosophical Society, Arts and Science Club, University religious groups, chess, and athletics). **Selection Criteria:** Must have been an active member in a University of Alberta club and/or Faculty Association; and not have previously received this award.

Maimie Shaw Simpson Book Award

(\$400.00 and \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate) To honour Miss Maimie Shaw Simpson, first Dean of Women at the University of Alberta, the "M.S.S. Book Prize" is presented. **Selection Criteria:** Must have made an outstanding contribution to campus life through hard work and leadership; preference will be given to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of women on this campus.

Royal Bank Financial Group Involvement Award

(Amount Varies)* Established by the Royal Bank Financial Group to acknowledge individuals who complement their educational experience with extracurricular involvement. **Selection Criteria:** Must demonstrate a combination of volunteerism, leadership and participation, both on campus and in the greater Edmonton community.

Royal Bank Student Faculty Association Involvement Award (Amount Varies)*

This award is presented for excellent service to students through involvement in a student faculty association at the University of Alberta. The award is renewed annually by the Royal Bank and funded through revenue donated from credit card sales to students. The Students' Union Executive has chosen to recognize the special importance of student faculty associations for their role in serving student needs by providing political representation, helpful services, social events, and involvement opportunities. Student faculty associations promote a sense of identity among students in similar programs, providing a crucial function as a community builder at the University of Alberta. **Selection Criteria:** Must be an executive member of a student faculty association at the University of Alberta who has made an outstanding contribution to the students they represent; demonstrate strong leadership skills; academic standing is a consideration in determining the winner.

Students' Union Award For Excellence*

This award is presented for excellence in curricular and extra-curricular activities while attending the University of Alberta. The award consists of a gold medal and one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) monetary prize. Selection shall be made on the basis of submission of application from faculty or students. **Selection Criteria:** Must be in their graduating year, have attained a minimum GPA of 7.5 in ten (10) full courses, or their equivalent taken within the previous two (2) years, be involved in extra-curricular activities in the University and/or community, demonstrate an ability to work well with students, staff, and the general public.

Tevie Miller Involvement Award

(\$400.00 and \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate) The Tevie Miller Involvement Award was established to recognize the outstanding commitment and dedication of the Honourable Associate Chief Justice Tevie H. Miller. Justice Miller was a Students' Union President, and upon convocation, continued his involvement as President of the Alumni Association. In 1980 he was elected as a member of the University Senate and in 1986, Tevie Miller was elected Chancellor of the University of Alberta. **Selection Criteria:** Must be an active member of a club or association at the University of Alberta and demonstrate strong leadership skills. The candidate may not receive a salary or honorarium from the said club or association.

Tom Lancaster Award

(\$400.00 and \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate) To perpetuate the memory of Tom Lancaster, General Manager for the Students' Union from 1989 to 1991, the "Tom Lancaster Award" is presented. Tom brought stability and warmth to the Students' Union through his concern and caring for students. **Selection Criteria:** Must have made an outstanding contribution to student life on campus through dedication and strong commitment to others and have shown active involvement and leadership in the Students' Union through volunteer work or participation within a Students' Union club or service.

Walter A. Dinwoodie Award

(\$400.00 and \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate) To perpetuate the memory of Walter A. Dinwoodie, Business Manager of the Students' Union from 1949 to 1962, this award is presented. **Selection Criteria:** Must have made an outstanding contribution to student life through active volunteer work for a public service club registered with the Students' Union and/or a Student Union Service. Persons who receive a salary, honorarium, or any other monetary remuneration for their work in the above organizations shall not be eligible to receive this award.

Complete Application/Nomination Package Deadline: Thursday, February 1, 2001, 5:00 p.m.
Submit to 2-900 SUB.

For further information contact Zöe Kolbuc, Academic Affairs Coordinator at 2-900 SUB, 492-4236.

* Transcript required. Please note that transcripts can take up to five days.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
**STUDENTS'
UNION**

is accepting nominations for:

STUDENTS' UNION
AWARD FOR
LEADERSHIP IN
UNDERGRADUATE
TEACHING
E

SALUTE was developed by Students' Council to promote and encourage excellence in teaching by recognizing faculty members who demonstrate outstanding contributions in their roles as undergraduate instructors at the University of Alberta.

Eligibility

All instructors of undergraduate courses are eligible for nomination. Nominees for the Award should have taught a minimum of three *3 sections, one of which has been taught in the current academic year.

Criteria

Understanding that outstanding teachers come in all shapes and sizes, there is no strict eligibility criteria and we encourage nominations which you, as a student, feel are worthy of recognition.

Nomination

All nominations must be made by students. Information regarding a professors eligibility can be obtained from the Department office and will be verified by the Students' Union. Nomination forms are available at information booths (SUB, CAB, HUB), student faculty association offices and SU executive offices. Nominations must be conferred by signatures of support from at least ten current students. Maximum three letters of support from faculty, alumni and students may be included.

All nominations are strictly confidential and will be made available to the selection committee only.

Examples include:

- generates a desire for continued learning
- availability outside of the classroom
- respects differences in student approaches to learning
- is flexible enough to accommodate differences in the rate of student learning
- displays role-model characteristics
- communicates clearly
- is organized and prepared for lectures
- is sympathetic to student concerns and lifestyles
- has developed appropriate lectures, readings, assignments and exams
- demonstrates fair and consistent assessment of course work
- has good knowledge of subject matter and awareness of new information
- inspires critical thinking
- acts as a student advisor in department
- contributes to development of teaching and learning in the greater university community.

Application Deadline: Thursday, February 1, 2001, 5:00 p.m.
For further information contact Catherine van de Braak at 492-4236.

Gold Key Recognition Award

Who's Made the Campus a Great Place?

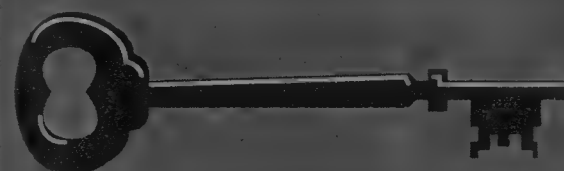
The Students' Union would like your help in identifying those individuals who have contributed to the improvement of life on campus or in the community. If you are, or know of, a student, staff member, or other individual who has shown exceptional dedication in one or more areas of the university, or community at large, we would like to pay tribute to them.

Recognizing Excellence

The Students' Union Gold Key Award was created by the Students' Union President, Evie Miller in 1950 and was intended to recognize the best on campus—those who contributed most to making the University of Alberta a better place—for their outstanding work in extra-curricular activities. This honour was bestowed on those people who had contributed greatly to the campus community. Thus a group was formed which was related to all campus organizations. The Gold Key Society was involved in a wide variety of events, it entertained visitors, and acted as ambassadors for the university. The Gold Key Society lapsed in 1970 and was revived in 1990 to recognize the large number of people who have contributed to campus and community life, and to provide them with an opportunity to continue to contribute to the university. In the tradition of the original Gold Key Society, members assist with the Society's mission wherever and whenever possible.

All members of the campus community are eligible for the award with the exception of the Students' Union Executive. The Gold Key Awards Committee shall have the discretion to award a number of Gold Key Recognition Awards. Notwithstanding other involvements, participation in Student Government, Volunteer Activities, Student Organizations, Student Services, and Community Involvement may be considered. To be eligible for the award, an individual must:

1. Be nominated or submit an application;
2. Not have previously received this award.



This tribute is in the form of a Gold Key Recognition Award which will be presented at the Students' Union Awards Night on Tuesday, March 27, 2001.

Application packages are available at the Students' Union Executive offices room 2-900 SUB, SUB, CAB, and HUB Info Desks.

Confidentiality will be respected.

Nomination Deadline:
Thursday, February 1, 2001 5:00 p.m.
Submit to 2-900 SUB.

For further information contact
Catherine van de Braak
at 2-900 SUB, 492-4236.

Lester Quitzau hooks up with Myer Horowitz to celebrate new CD



PREVIEW

The Lester Quitzau

Very Eclectic Trio

CD release party

11 January

Myer Horowitz Theatre

James Elford

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

Local bluesman Lester Quitzau is not a man who shies away from experimenting musically.

"I just want to be constantly evolving as a musician and as a human being," explains Quitzau, guitar and vocals for the Very Electric Trio. Lester and the rest of the group are celebrating the release of their new album, *So Here We Are*, tonight at the Myer Horowitz theatre in SUB. Recorded in Edmonton, and mastered in Toronto, *So Here We Are* was produced by Joe Dunphy who also produced *Tricontinental*, a fusion of folk, blues, and Malagasy rhythms that featured Quitzau, as well as esteemed blues artists Bill Bourne and Madagascar Slim.

The new album continues the artist's growth into different genres and is "like a musical journey" according to Quitzau, even incorporating hip-hop beats into the music. He manages to experiment with this genre fusion without departing from his roots, and the result is an inventive mix of sound that manages to keep a distinctive bluesy feel. While Quitzau may test the waters of reggae, folk, or electronic looping, the songs all share the same heavy, emotion-driven blues attributes that translate well into a live performance.

"There is something about a live performance that's great and you can't substitute it," He explains that

"there's no energy exchange" without the audience/performer interaction, and that this exchange is an essential part of the musical experience.

Indeed live performances have long been a part of Quitzau's musical life, as live shows at Edmonton's defunct Ambassador "planted the seeds of music." After a period with Slippin' Lizards, he joined a band of older musicians called the Yard Dogs. With guidance from the Yard Dogs' Farley Scott, Lester learned more about music and the business of music through experience (and a few guitar lessons).

"I guess it was part of my apprenticeship," reflects Quitzau, "I gained wisdom."

His first solo album, *Keep on Walking* was different then his 1996 follow up, *Big Love* in that the earlier release was a more traditional collection of folks-blues, while the latter moved beyond preconceptions of blues to more of an eclectic experiment.

"I just follow my nose and try to satisfy myself. If something interests me, I go with it."

Quitzau has continued this pattern with his new CD, and as expected, the response is very positive. With that in mind, Quitzau is beginning a tour to promote the new disc. He will likely be going to as far as Europe, where he has toured before.

Quitzau has even considered moving there, but insists that Edmonton is a good city, with a healthy music scene that he'd like to keep as a home base.

What does the Future hold for The Lester Quitzau Very Electric Trio? For his part, Quitzau keeps his future plans as open as his music. "We're just gonna tour a lot across Canada, and see where its gonna take us." Such is the nature of the bluesman.

Assemblage Point sacrifice popularity for quality

Godspeed helps drive local threesome

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT
Assemblage Point
New City Likwid Lounge
25 January

Raymond Biesinger
INTERVIEW MANAGER

A house ten blocks from campus with false wood paneling, the brownest of brown carpets and a variety of indie-rock posters, plays audience to local rockers' Assemblage Point's efforts to put the capital 'L' in loud and the small 'm' in melody.

If the walls had ears they would hear mouse-squeaks of quietness placed into convoys of colliding automobile music brought to existence through distorted bass, broken drums and cracked six-strings.

A drink led to talk, and talk led to a light confession from bassist

and second year Arts student Matt Webb that most bands should be keen to recite: "We've finally realized that we did not create the idiom of music."

Soon thereafter he clarified this by explaining that the band was "getting over the hump on which we sound like our influences." These influences include Godspeed You Black Emperor, Amon Tobin, Trans-Am, Mogwai, and a number of other groups of a transitory and marginalized genre often referred to as "soundtrack music," "post-rock," or simply experimental. The typology (and their) only common denominators are drama and difference.

This is what these Camrose converts have been producing for the last couple of years, and the three are fully aware of their continued obscurity as a result of it. During the course of the evening, the tenets of their particular brand of music become apparent. Twenty-two year old guitar-boy and Animal



Guitarist and vocalist Clayton Skinner, drummer Stewart Smith, Bassist Matt Webb are ... Assemblage Point.

Sciences student Clayton Skinner mentions his affinity for "working with sounds," and Stewart Smith's claim to be a "loud rock 'n' roll band" is enforced by stacks of broken drum skins lying about their practice room. Matt describes the band's image as "loud, abrasive, and angry," but it seems that in repeating others' criticisms he may have manufactured his own truth.

After making our way from bar to home, drummer Stewart Smith sat on a couch and focused on a plas-

tic cup of duty-free Rye recently acquired by his band-mate on a trip home from Taiwan. That band-mate, Clayton, and the other, Matt, reserve their attention for another task: the threesome's latest recording—an unmixed collision of two songs—is being played for a visitor. Nearly forgetting their visitor's presence, they lose themselves in criticism and construction of their impending little seven inch, four-song piece of vinyl due for a summertime release.

Clayton converses with Matt about putting reverb to a snare drum hit, and for the second of three times in the evening, reiterates his mantra. This concept, it seems, ensures that Assemblage Point remains on the obscure edges of Edmonton's rock and roll mainstream.

These cats have been criticized for being overly volume-fond and artsy, but at home they're nothing but rye, analysis, and a train wreck intentionally scheduled to happen.

Photos by Martin Cole (1) and Keith Wood (2 & 3) / THE GATEWAY

Rawk 'em, sock 'em hockey

Green Pepper Hockey League kicks off season at Likwid Lounge

STORY TYPE

**Green Pepper Hockey League
Season Opener Party
with Smak! and Stash
New City Likwid Lounge
6 January**

James Elford

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

Trading in their instruments for sticks and skates, local Edmonton bands have been taking to the ice for the past three years as part of the Green Pepper Hockey League.

The competition is friendly, and even occasionally intense, as the teams vie for the coveted "Lord That's a Stanky Cup," the bastardized version of Lord Stanley's Cup.

"Commissioner" Brent Oliver (of Slow Fresh Oil), explained the league was the natural evolution of games that were played between local bands. Oliver, exercising his executive powers, tries to keep the team names as close to NHL names as possible. Team names include the Molly's Reach Red Wings, the Slow Fresh Oilers, and the Mad Bomber Society Leafs. The only exception would be the Smak! Arsenal, who chose their name instead of the "Flames." The League even included the smalls until their recent departure for US.

The League has doubled in size since its inception, growing from 6 teams to 12. Because the size of the teams requires more play-

ers then most bands have musicians, friends and members of other bands are allowed to play under the banner of the various groups.

Nor is the league restricted solely to teams based around bands, as both CJSR and the Black Dog Freehouse have teams.

The league plays using an adaptation of the CHA rules, and one of the alterations made by the League includes (and encourages) the participation of women. Not only is it co-ed, but a penalty is assessed if there are no females in the starting line-up.

The season kicked-off at the Likwid Lounge by Stash and Smak!, two bands that have their own League teams. The Stash Flyers were up first, followed by the Smak Arsenal, who were the only team to prominently display their colours at the event.

Games are held at the Crestwood, Donnan, or Oliver Rink, and tend to be scheduled for later in the evenings. Last year the Black Dog Chiefs led B Division with 17 points, while the Nabob Flyers trailed at the bottom of the pack at 5 (Slow Fresh Oilers having beaten them by 1 point).

In Division A, the Mammoth Blackhawks tied with the Molly's Reach Wings for most points at 16. The smalls, in their last year of competition, fared slightly worse trailing the rest of the league at 2 points. More information on the League, including a complete

schedule of the 4-month season, is available at www.greenpepperrecords.com.

Not only has the league been increasing in size, but in fan popularity, with growing spectator turnout at the games. There has even been a documentary video made about the league by local filmmaker Dave Luxton titled *Inside the Green Pepper Hockey League* that details the exploits of the intrepid musicians.

While some might scoff at the idea of bands playing hockey in a league, the GPLH proves that area rock can take place on both the stage and ice.



Mark Woytiuk / THE GATEWAY

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Students' Union Executive Offices (2-900 SUB)
Students' Union Website (www.su.ualberta.ca)

For more information please contact:
Zoë Kolbuc
Academic Affairs Coordinator
aac@su.ualberta.ca 492-4236

Anti-Freeze causes five-band battle royale

Battle of the Bands prepares to heat up the Power Plant this Saturday

PREVIEW

Anti-Freeze
Battle of the Bands
Power Plant
13 January

Jon Dunbar
NEWS EDITOR

On Saturday, student musicians are heading into battle at the Power Plant.

As part of Anti-Freeze, the Students' Union is hosting the third annual Battle of the Bands, featuring the talents of five local bands. As required, each group has at least one University student member.

The five combatants were selected by a committee and include the Lost Action Heroes, Mint, Les Tabernacles, Portal, and Mi5. The bands are playing for a shot at opening for the Watchmen and the Headstones at the Tricampus party in March.

"I really wish we had a boy band this year," joked SU Manager of Entertainment and Programming Katherine Huising.

The battle begins at the Plant when the Lost Action Heroes throw down the gauntlet at 8:30. Fans of the Mighty Mighty Boss-Tones may remember their onstage appearance, when Boss-Tones frontman Dicky Barrett invited them to join him onstage. Listed among their membership are U of A students Greg Hutchison (trumpet), Emily Kulasa (trombone), and Julien

Constantin (lead vocals). After the initial half-hour onslaught of St Albert ska, the Heroes will give up the stage to Mint.

Mint features U of A student Dave Gilbertson. Last year, they appeared in the Battle of the Bands under the name Second Guess. Hoping to leave a sweet taste in your mouth, they'll continue the assault with guitar-driven punk music.

Those of you who are familiar with our Circulation Manager Raymond Biesinger no doubt know of his fanatical crush on Les Tabernacles, a local group of raunch rockers that turned a few heads this year. They emerged triumphant at a previous Battle of the Bands last year, and they got to play at DV8 in Calgary with Sloan. U of A student Alan Hildebrandt plays bass. For sure, they'll stomp all over the audience like warm, mushy bananas.

It will be up to Portal to collect the strewn appendages of the audience and put them back together. Three of Portal's five members are U of A students: Kevin Hoskin (guitars/vocals), Kenton Gilchrist (vocals), and Blair Fix (drums/vocals). Along with Jeff Bolton, who plays guitar and sings vocals, they have four vocalists. Surprisingly, they are not a boy band. Their sound is more akin to a rock band with a high funk content.

The battle concludes with a coup from Mi5. Three members of quartet Mi5 recently graduated from WP Wagner to the mighty University of Alberta. The band features U of A

students Eric Cheng (lead vocals/guitar), Devin Keer (lead guitar/vocals), and Jordan Beatty (bass/vocals). Their resume boasts an extensive list of Battle of the Bands victories.

The winner will be determined by a panel of five judges. This year's panel consists of Smilin' Jay from CJSR, Mike Ross from the *Edmonton Sun*, Campus constable Shawn Green, Gateway Arts & Entertainment Editor Dave Alexander, and an as yet to be confirmed personality from 100.3FM, The Bear, radio station. Each band has a mere half of an hour to impress the judges.

"Sometimes the audience is shocked by the decision the judges make," notes Huising. "In all honesty, in previous years, the judges have been fairly unanimous."

The first year the SU had the Battle of the Bands, one of the groups, was from Lister Hall, and they invited all of their friends from residence. Huising recalls that they assumed they would be judged solely on audience participation. When she told them there would be a panel of judges, their faces fell. However, that said, there's nothing like the feeling of being cheered on by a large, boisterous crowd.

So if you like testosterone, you may want to bring a spigot. All five bands will be bursting at the seams with chest-hair-growing, voice-deepening hormone-rock. Come in from the cold and help these five young bands crack the ice off the roof of the Plant.

FREE STUFF

Who likes short shorts? I do. On an unrelated note, I've got a few Cineplex Odeon movie passes to give away to some randomly chosen students who can tell me one of the top album picks from last issue. Send answers to gatewaycnb@hotmail.com. Oh yeah, you can also use your One Card to get a couple of bucks off the price of admission on Thursday nights at both the Eaton Centre and Ciniplex Odeon theatres. They made me say that, but it's still a pretty decent deal, so it's cool.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Protest!
Students' Union Building
Thursday, 11 January

Filthy communist-type students will be putting on an old fashioned protest from 7:00pm onwards with the help of godfather of punk Raj Pannu, folkster Joel Kroeker, funk-icon and politician Nancy Macbeth, orthodox-rock catastrophe The Bisell Centre, and some kids named Cool Blue Method.

Bring your best placards and call your favourite parent, because they'll be dead worried when you don't crawl back home until the following afternoon.

Silver Screen Party
Dinwoodie Lounge
Friday, 12 January

There's a party happening as a part of Anti-Freeze, and it has a dress code: "glam." This presents a problem: does one tow the line and dress up glamorous, like some tiny bourgeois kitten in a little black dress, or take the moral high road and dress like glam metal heroes Mötley Crüe circa '83? I think, good students, that you know the correct answer.

Compiled by Raymond Biesinger

Knucklehead
The Sidetrack Café
Saturday, 13 January

Proleterian punks Knucklehead don't play glam metal, but chances are they'd very much appreciate an audience composed of kids dressed in the part. Last time they played their home town of Calgary, those in attendance liked their Oi Oi Oi far too much which in turn caused the entire Arts District to collapse. Hence their pressing need to hit the road.

Engineering Week
Battle of the Bands
Dinwoodie Lounge
Tuesday, 16 January

Who ever said that Engineering kids couldn't rock? Obviously someone hideously uninformed as to the nature of Engineers, who are prone to using combinations of rock and roll and hard drinkin' as a quick fix for the sobriety problem. The only difference is that tonight they're playing their favourite Tragically Hip and Moxy Früvous songs live as ad hoc musical outfits instead of on worn out cassette tapes.

This New Year,
resolve to

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SITE UNSEEN



www.movieclichés.com

Adam Rozenhart
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

Does it ever bother you that every time you go to see a movie, something despicably dumb and predictable happens? Or simply that the characters all behave in clichéd ways? Well, you aren't alone. Your Internet brethren understand your feelings.

On the *Movie Clichés* website, a vast archive has been set up to address the plethora of commonalities. There are about 90 categories that range from animals to sex (thankfully not a combination). There's even one dedicated to wood (and it's not sexual).

Among the sex clichés: "Women moan a lot during sex, but never sweat." In the death category: "A dying person's last words will always be coherent and significant." And under Radio & TV: "The phone rings. Caller says, 'You better check out what's on the news on Channel 13.' He turns on channel 13 and gets the report from the beginning." There's even an entire section dedicated to the worst film ever made. No, not *Showgirls*, but *Independence Day*.

Although this website is thoroughly entertaining, it leaves out some important clichés. Fortunately, one can submit their own choices. Mine was obvious; the unnamed ensign on a *Star Trek* "away mission" will never, ever, ever return to the ship alive.

CULTURA OBSCURA



Glow-in-the-Dark Spaghetti
and (Bouncing) Meatballs

Mr David Alexander
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Do your balls glow in the dark?
This isn't what a Chernobyl doctor might ask during a physical, but rather a clever

introduction to Glow-in-the-Dark Spaghetti and (Bouncing) Meatballs.

Thanks to our wonderful friend Kristianne, who graciously donated this bizarre toy to the cause after receiving it free when she ordered a Pirate Bendy toy (a previous Cultura Obscura) over the Internet.

The Glow-in-the-Dark Spaghetti and (Bouncing) Meatballs appear to be two glow-in-the-dark Ping-Pong balls nestled comfortably in a pile of leftover glow-in-the-dark string ends. Imagine the joy that rang through the company when some crafty employee realized that by simply adding a couple of painted Ping-Pong balls, the company could use up their glow string leftovers instead of dumping them in the sewers. The unfortunate thing is that, as the package states, "Tomato sauce not included." I guess you can't have it all.

But don't despair because they recommend a "a nice glow-in-the-dark Space Mucus™," while also pointing out that "This is Not Real Food." You don't say?

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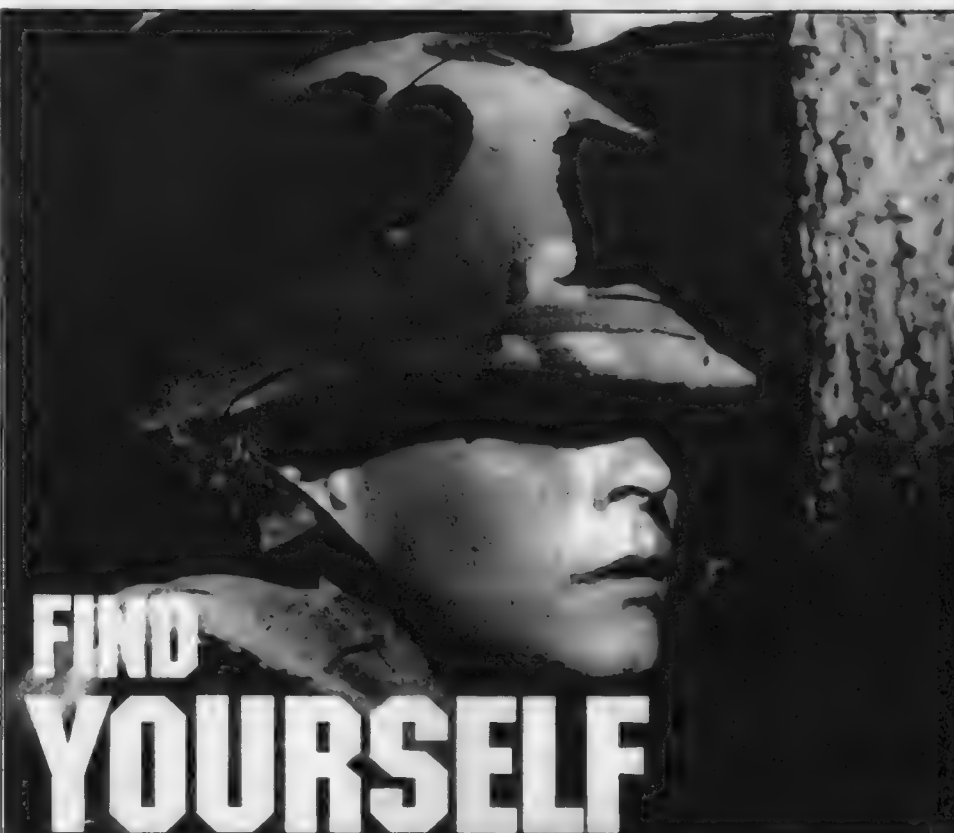


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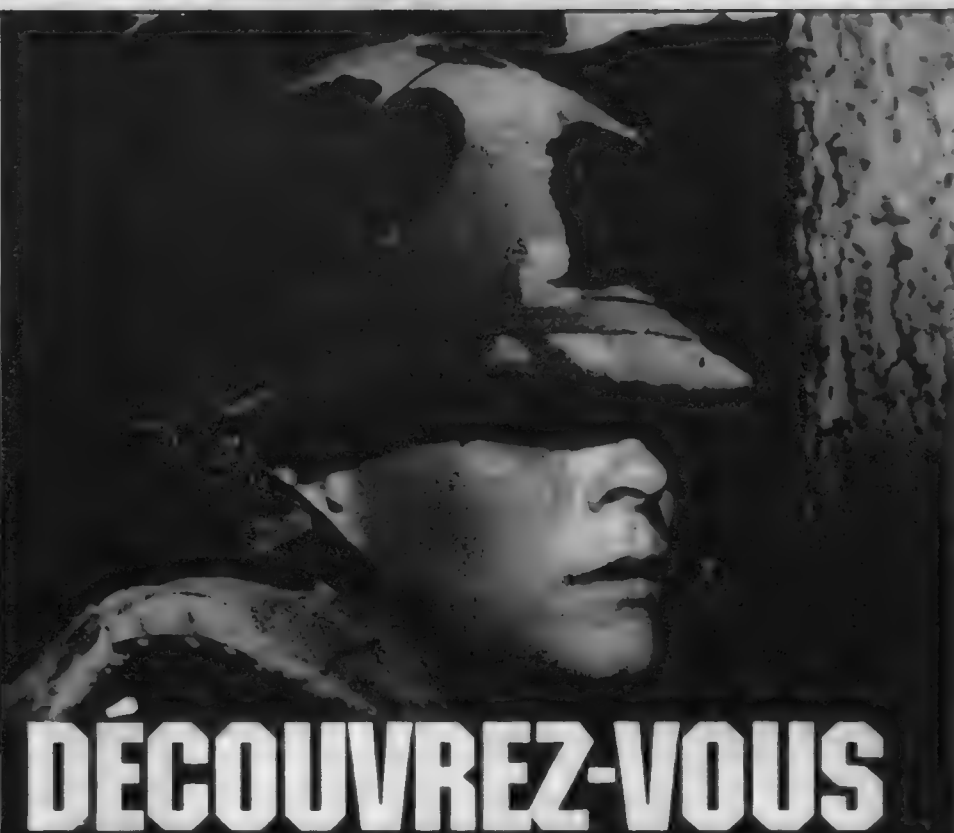
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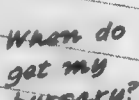
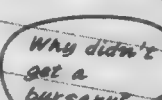




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THE GATEWAY
You should write for us.

The Empty Pocket

No Minimum Charge

Billiards by the hour
Group Bookings Available

Lower Level SUB

contact info:
Ronald Tam @ 492-9468

A SERVICE OF YOUR STUDENTS' UNION

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

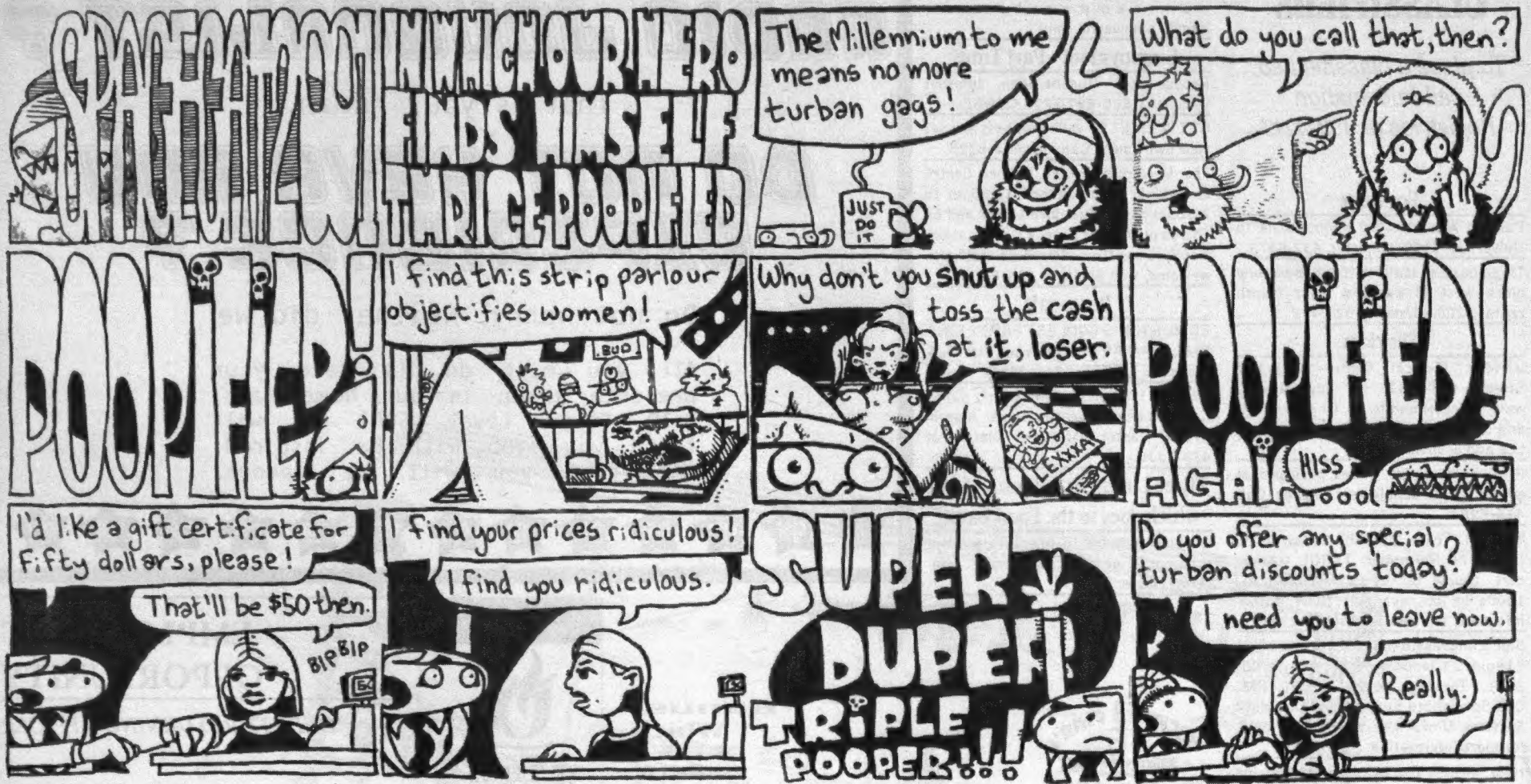
SATURDAY January 13, 2001

Doors: 8pm
powerplant

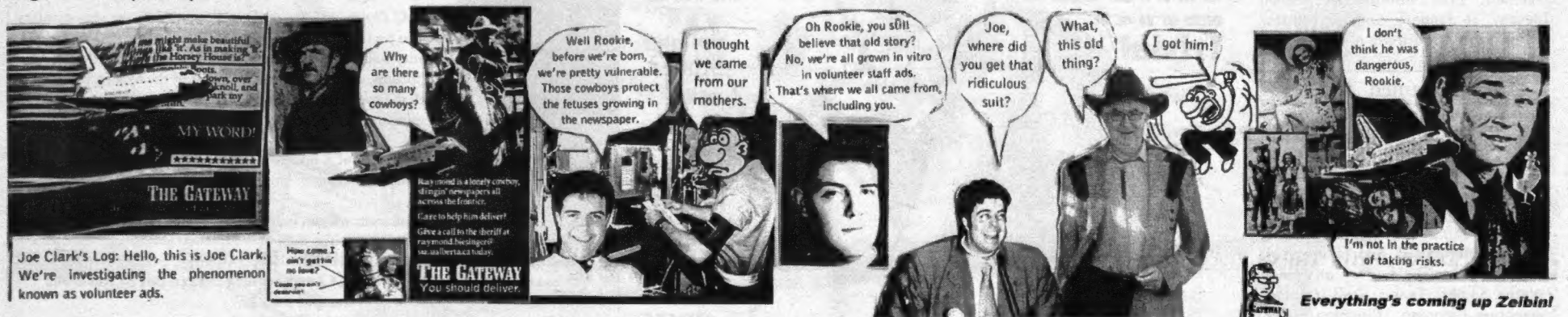
No Minors (age ID required)
Tickets \$4 available from
SUB Info/Ticket Centre or the PowerPlant

Anti Freeze

Space Cat High 2001 by Fish Griwkowsky



Papernauts by Jonny DunBar



Cartoon Acid by Albert Guillermo



Adroit Casanova by Jag Deep



The Sex Boys #2 by Mikey Winters



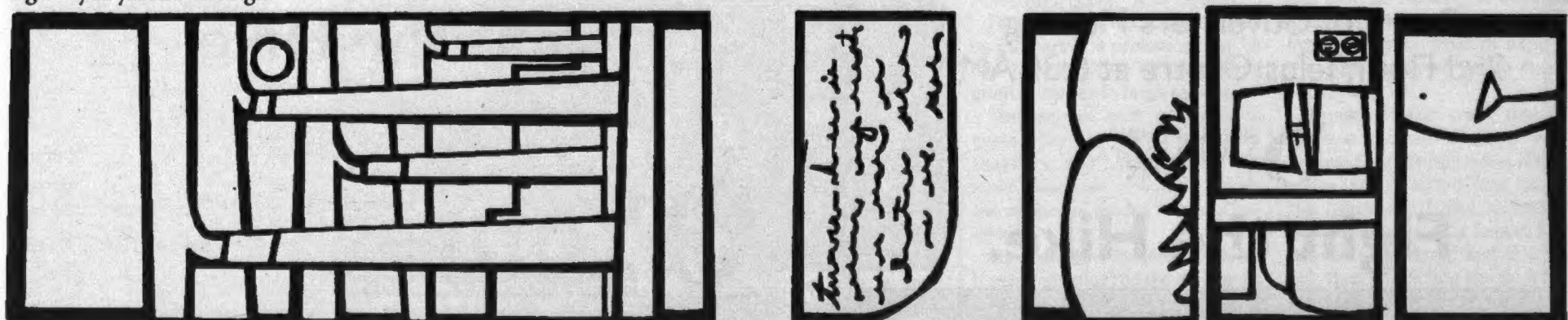
Lazer Comics 2020 by Chris Boutet



"Death"world by Rudi Gunther



Tiger! by Raymond Biesinger



Your SU

Editor: TJ Adhihetty • 492-4236 • scc@su.ualberta.ca

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3.7% Hike Going to BoG

JAN 12: FIGHT THE HIKE.

The University's original 5.7% hike was rejected in December. The new plan calls for a 3.7% increase. **This is the lowest tuition increase that has been proposed in the last 12 years.** Nevertheless, it's important that we still make a stand to show that the University cannot continually raise tuition. There's other ways to put money in the classroom: reducing administrative expenditures that are out of line with our peer universities, and lobbying government more effectively.

Get out to the meeting. Make sure your voice is heard.

WHAT IS THE BoG?

The Board of Governors makes the big decisions: it appoints our Deans and administrators, it manages the University's property and revenue, and it has the final say over how much tuition we pay. The University does not direct the Board, rather the Board directs the University. Our challenge is to ensure that the Board is accountable to us.

Your BoG REPRESENTATIVE

• **TUITION:** The Board is aware of the need for more resources, and on the other hand, it knows that tuition is too high. This year we have stepped up our pressure on the Administration to ensure that funding goes where it's needed most, i.e. the classroom.

• **GOVERNMENT:** Of course, the University wouldn't be in this position if it weren't for the funding cuts from the 1990s. I have pushed Board members to use their government connections to send the message that the University needs more funding. Moreover, the Board is increasingly willing to lobby harder for better resources from government.

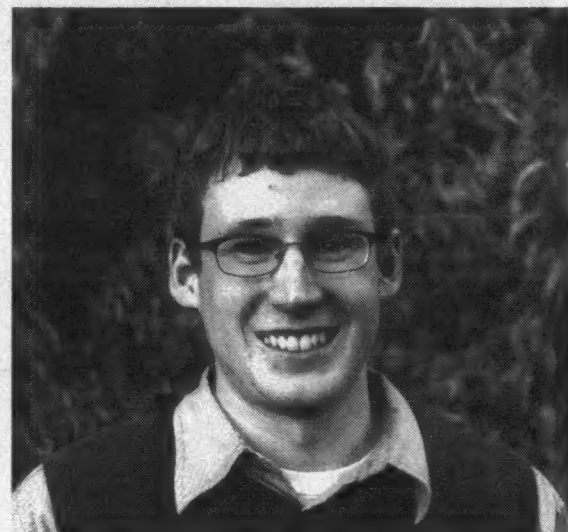
• **TUITION PHILOSOPHERS CAFÉ:** Established a group that looks at tuition and student debt from a global perspective. We've met a number of times to share ideas and to encourage student involvement around fighting tuition hikes.

• **OUTREACH:** Met with many students, particularly those who are often not involved in the tuition debate, to get feedback and advice. I continually look for student opinions, as well as communicate the Board's activities.

MARK CORMIER, Mr. BoG

An Edmonton resident most of my life, I backpacked in the Middle East and North Africa before I came to the U of A to study Economics. Before becoming your Board representative, I worked and volunteered for the SU at the Student Distress Centre and a number of student groups. Between that and classes, I try to stay active in the community, working as a Labourer-Teacher for Frontier College in rural Canada, and volunteering at a hospital ER, the Bissell Centre, and on a number of projects.

Mark Cormier
mark.cormier@su.ualberta.ca,
492-4236



Let them Know.

JAN. 12

Final Tuition Vote at the
Board of Governors Meeting
2nd Floor, Telus Centre at 8:30 AM




Fight the Hike.

NO DOUGH!

Donuts & Hot Chocolate

Free outside the Telus
Centre @ 8:30 am

Show Your Support. Fight the Hike.

hosted by
 **Yours.**
university of alberta students' union